The Middlebury Campus

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Workforce Planning Enters Final Stage

By MIYO MCGINN
Staff Writer

This week, Middlebury is entering the final stages of its yearlong workforce planning process. On Tuesday, the college finalized employees' acceptances of voluntary buyouts, which the college terms Incentivized Separation Plans (ISP), marking the end of a process that has been ongoing since early February.

Although an overview of which positions were eliminated and how each department is being affected has not yet been made available, the college has indicated that it is on track to meet its goal of reducing employee expenses by 10%, or about $8 million. The college plans to make an announcement about workforce planning after the Board of Trustees meeting in May, according to college spokesperson Sarah Ray.

President Laurie L. Patton notified faculty and staff on Feb. 4 that the college had identified 150 staff positions to be eliminated, while an additional 30 new positions would be created and filled as a result of the workforce planning process. Of the 150 positions identified for reduction, though, about 100 were already vacant through attrition and restrictions on re-hiring over the last few years. Around 50 occupied full- and part-time staff positions, including roughly 42 full-time positions, were set to be eliminated over the next few years, according to an email sent the following day to faculty and staff.

Because many staff share job titles, the college sent buyout applications to 80 employees on Feb. 8, although only 42 of their positions needed to be eliminated. Those employees had until March 11 to submit if they wished to receive a buyout. Staff members in affected positions were notified by their supervisors before receiving a buyout application from the college.

All employees eligible for buyouts were also granted access to a private job portal where they could apply to thirty new positions, which had been created as part of the workforce planning process, before they were made broadly available. This was part of the college's effort to reduce

Continued on Page 4

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

FUN IN THE SUN: Runners participating in Sunday morning's 11th annual Maple Run were greeted by warm temperatures and sunny skies.

Middlebury Evacuated Its School in Cameroon. Was it the Right Decision?

By NICK GARBER
Managing Editor

One afternoon last October, the four students studying abroad in Middlebury's school in Yaoundé, Cameroon, received a cryptic message from the program's director, asking them to meet for dinner at the home of one of their host families.

The puzzled students assumed that the director, Ariane Ngabeu, wanted to discuss some change to the semester's academic programming. They nearly discounted the possibility that the meeting had anything to do with Cameroon's contentious presidential elections, which had taken place nine days earlier on Oct. 7, and whose results were slated to be announced within the next week.

"In our wildest dreams it was something about the elections," said Emily Ray '20, one of the students in Cameroon last semester. In Yaoundé, the country's bustling but tranquil capital city, the notion that the election results could unleash a wave of political violence was unthinkable.

But while the students were waiting for Ngabeu to arrive for dinner, they received an email from Nicole Chance, an assistant director for Middlebury's international programs and a liaison for the Cameroon school. It contained a startling announcement: Middlebury had decided to relocate the four students to Morocco, fearing that electoral violence could sweep Cameroon and shutter its airports. The group would be put on flights to Rabat, Morocco just over a day later, with no guarantee that they would be able to return to Cameroon to finish their semester.

"It was traumatic," Ray said.

Continued on Page 11

COURTESY PHOTO/EMILY RAY

The view from the Middlebury center in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

College Struggles to Meet Surging Demand for Mental Health Support

By JAMES FINN
News Editor

Many students struggle with mental health during their time at college. At Middlebury, receiving mental health support can be an obstacle in itself.

Over the course of a three-month investigation by The Campus, students voiced frustrations with aspects of the college's mental health services, ranging from difficulty scheduling counseling appointments to lack of specialized care for issues like alcoholism and eating disorders.

At Parton's Counseling Center, for example, students can sign up for counseling sessions up to two weeks prior to their desired appointment. But demand for Parton's counselors has surged, and students are hardly ever able to schedule appointments less than two weeks in advance.

"On the online portal you can only sign up for two weeks in advance, but if you're not on the dot on the day that those two weeks open up, you're not going to get anything," said Angie McCarthy '19, who has used Parton counseling in the past.

College campuses nationwide are facing the challenge of providing services to a generation of students seeking mental health support in greater numbers than ever before. Between 2009 and 2015, the number of student visits to college counseling centers increased by an average of 30% nationwide, according to a 2015 report by the Center for Collegiate Mental Health. Evolving cultural standards have lifted some of the stigma around discussing mental health, and colleges are scrambling to provide enough counselors, focus groups and hotlines for

Continued on Page 3

Where the Hamilton Forum Gets Its Money

By CALI KAPP
News Editor

The controversy last month over the cancellation of a lecture by Ryszard Legutko threw the organization that invited him, the Alexander Hamilton Forum, into the national spotlight.

Student activists and faculty members criticized the Political Science department and Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs for sponsoring the event, including at a panel discussion held by both entities the day before the lecture was scheduled to take place. Neither the Rohatyn Center or Political Science department provided any monetary support of the event. At the panel, attendees asked who funded Legutko's lecture, and the Hamilton Forum in general.

In an email to The Campus, forum director and Assistant Political Science Professor Keegan Callanan identified the three sources that fund the Hamilton Forum: The Institute for Humane Studies (IHS), J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund and The Jack Miller Center.

Callanan said the forum takes no direction from its donors when it comes to selected topics, invited speakers or any aspect of the forum's programming.

IHS is a libertarian non-profit organization affiliated with George Mason University. Its website identifies its mission to "ensure higher education becomes a place where classical liberal ideas are regularly taught, discussed, challenged, and developed, and where free speech, intellectual diversity, and open inquiry flourish."

Continued on Page 4

BENJY RENTON

BACK TO BACK: Members of the women's lacross team celebrated their second NESCAC championship in a row on Sunday.

Faculty Consider Changes to College Protest Policy

By NICOLE POLLACK
Senior Writer

A committee of faculty, staff and students proposed a new college protest policy at the April 26 faculty meeting. They developed the new policy collaboratively in response to the unpopular draft protest policy published online last November. While the initial draft policy, written by General Counsel Hannah Ross, was criticized for its ambiguity, the new policy aims to be as clear as possible in upholding the three pillars of the college's academic mission: academic freedom, respect and integrity.

"How do we experience freedom and express respect and have integrity simultaneously?" asked Michael Sheridan, associate professor of anthropology and a member of the policy committee, in an interview with The Campus. "By definition, protest is disruption."

The committee is not attempting to define the right way to protest, Sheridan said, but is trying to reduce ambiguity through the creation of a space for things to be done right.

The goal of the draft policy is to determine what happens when the conflict mechanisms of non-disruptive protest are unsuccessful. The committee, led by Amy Briggs, professor of computer science, considers development of institutional mechanisms and protocol regarding policy enforcement to be a necessary next step, but sees it as something beyond the scope of the committee's designated task.

Sheridan said the student members — Ami Furgang '20, Lily Barter '19.5, Taite Shomo '20.5 and Grace Vedock '20 — drew inspiration from out protest policies from Brown University and Colorado College , which they saw as especially "interesting and compelling and useful."

The committee set out to "work through what a Middlebury-centric policy would look like, trying to capture the kind of clarity and the

Continued on Page 4

NEWS

Debaters have un-debatably good run in Panama
Page 2

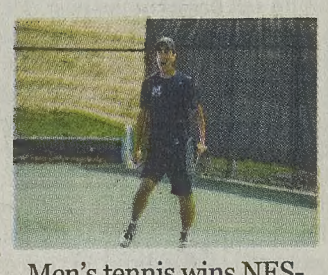
LOCAL

Local editors' VT summer suggestions
Page 6

Dishing up Vermont's creemee secrets
Page 7

SPORTS

Ultimate frisbee earns Nationals bid
Page 14



Men's tennis wins NESCAC championship
Page 16

NEW ADMISSIONS DEAN CURVIN OUTLINES HER GOALS

By HANNAH BENSEN
Senior Writer

After growing up in a family of educators, incoming Dean of Admissions Nicole Curvin initially avoided pursuing a career in education. But she soon changed her mind, intrigued by the vitality and constantly changing nature of higher education.

"What I realized, ultimately, is that one of the best places to have a job is on a college campus," said Curvin, who currently serves as director of admissions. "You have an influx of energetic and excited students each year. You have faculty who are amazing at their discipline and can inform you of pretty much any topic that you're thinking about in your life."

Curvin will begin her new role as dean of admissions on July 1, succeeding Greg Buckles, who will leave for the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey on June 30. In the context of a national conversation regarding the ethics of higher education admissions practices, Curvin hopes to continue fair admissions processes at Middlebury, maintaining a holistic review of candidates and focusing on creating a suitable fit between the student and the campus community.

"We remain fully committed to the integrity of the admissions process and of all the pieces that go into that, whether it's athletic recruiting or working with our legacy community," Curvin said. "Our hope and our aim is to attract amazing students and to encourage them to consider Middlebury as an option. I will continue to be transparent in the admissions process for Middlebury, understanding that we have to say no to a large percentage of the students."

Curvin, who began working at Middlebury in 2014, has spent much of her time at admissions focusing on access and inclusivity to the college. Curvin is involved in the selection of Posse Scholars, a program that provides full-tuition scholarships to students with academic and leadership potential who may otherwise be overlooked in the admissions process. Each year, Middlebury typically recruits about 30 students from three different cities.

Curvin emphasized that recruitment efforts extend well beyond the Posse program. Appointed coordinator of multicultural recruitment in 2017, Curvin helped develop outreach strategies, working with community groups and organizations to ensure that first-generation students, undocumented students and students of color are well-represented on campus. According to Curvin, these efforts have attracted over 2,000 applications from students of color.

As Curvin transitions into her new position, she has several objectives that she hopes to pursue along with the rest of the admissions team. Curvin hopes to establish more "touchpoints" on campus between admissions and faculty, staff and students to think about the bigger picture of college admissions at Middlebury. Another goal is to improve collaboration between Middlebury and other colleges in order to reach communities that may not have heard of Middlebury or other liberal arts institutions. Such partnerships could allow schools to exchange ideas about recruitment and financial aid practices, and help facilitate visits for prospective students to multiple schools in the same region.

"[We are] continuing to think about who the next generation of students is and what they might look like, and thinking about how the mission of the college will drive that conversation as we're recruiting," Curvin said.

During Curvin's twenty years in admissions, academic advising and career counseling, she has become frustrated by the narrative that a student must make the "right" decision regarding which school to attend.

"Some students are losing sight of this idea of fit," Curvin said. "The disappointment comes in peeling away the important parts of the conversation regarding a college choice. And in drilling this idea that there are only a few places that students can be successful or have this outcome. And to watch students think that there's this 'dream' place that they need to be."

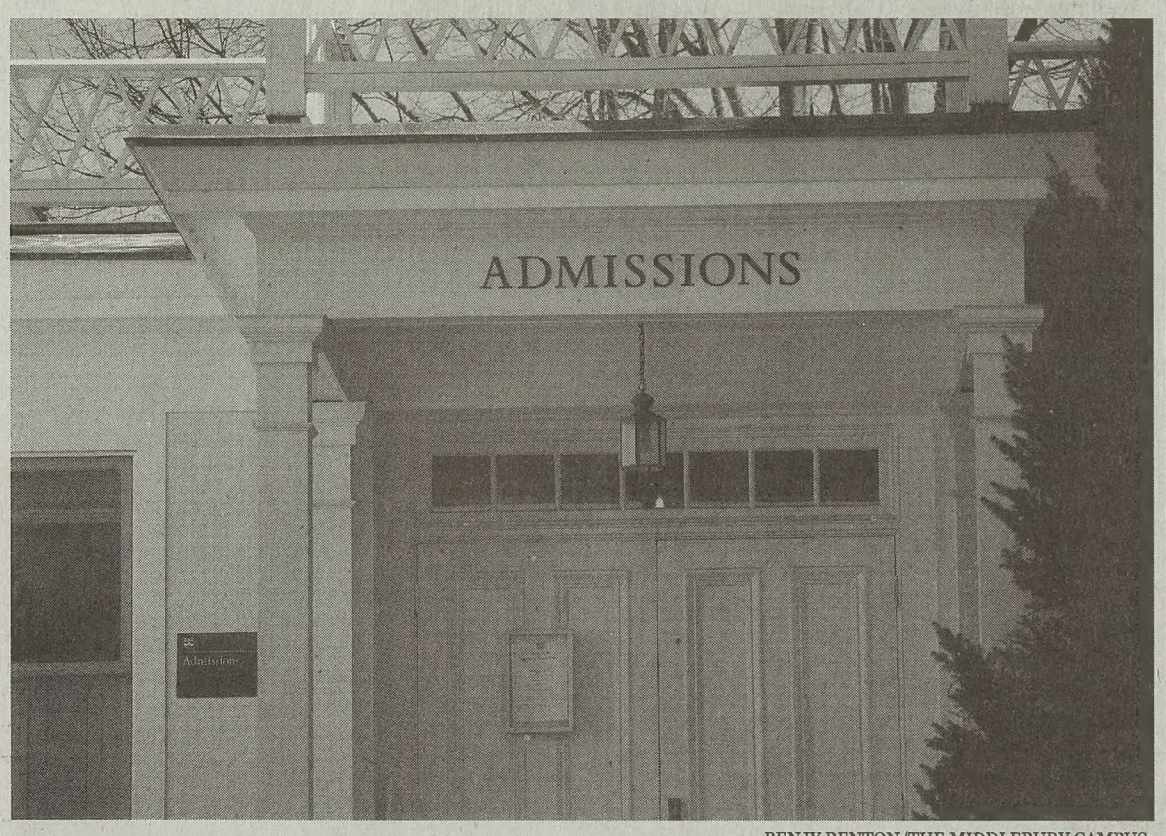
While the admissions team has worked to put Middlebury on the map both nationally and internationally, Curvin recognizes that one barrier to a diverse student body is getting students to come to Middlebury to experience the campus culture for themselves. Most students who currently visit campus have the financial and social means of getting to Middlebury. Curvin supports expanding programs that facilitate prospective student visits to Middlebury, and that have counselors advocate for those students to learn about Middlebury's curricular and extracurricular offerings.

"One of the ways that we can impress about students that this could be a place for them is for them to see it and experience it," Curvin said.

This past week, Curvin has been to nearly a dozen college fairs around New York City. These recruitment trips allow Curvin to talk with students and inform them of Middlebury's offerings, answer general questions about the college process, and encourage them to visit Middlebury's campus in person.

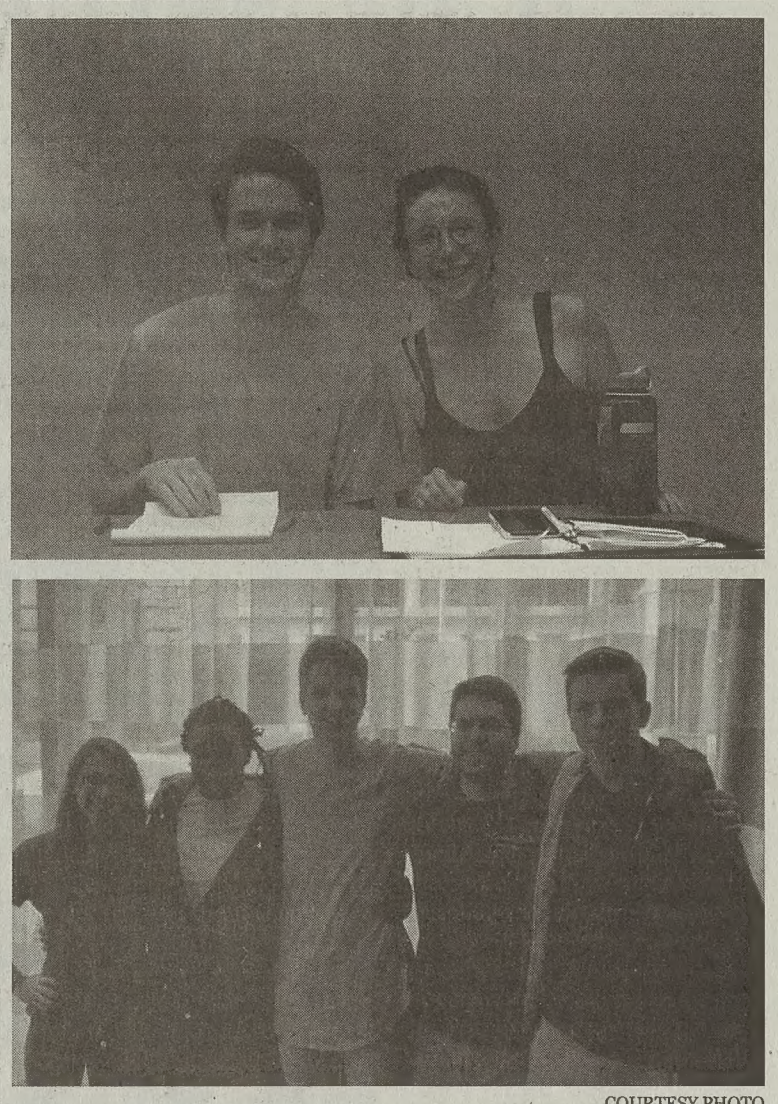
> ***"There are no two students who are alike, and there are no two high schools that are alike. There are hundreds of different varieties, and just trying to figure out that match is important."***

"That's another really eye-opening part of the recruitment work that we do, is that we go to so many different types of high schools," Curvin said. "We can be in a private school with a lot of resources, or we can be in a big public school that has limited resources, but it has amazing students, and great programs. And it gives you some perspective when you come back to campus and you're reading those applications. There are no two students who are alike, and there are no two high schools that are alike. There are hundreds of different varieties, and just trying to figure out that match is important."



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Nicole Curvin will assume the role of Dean of Admissions on July 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

Memebrs of Middlebury Debate Society traveled to Panama last week to compete in the Pan American Debate Championships.

Debate Society Wins Big in Panama

By ROSE EVANS
Contributing Writer

In the culmination of a highly successful season, the 2018-19 Middlebury Debate society traveled to Panama City, Panama last week for the Pan American Championships (Pan Ams) and achieved a historic performance for the program.

The annual title tournament features teams from North, Central and South America, bringing together college debaters from the United States, Panama, Colombia, Jamaica and Mexico, among other countries. The tournament includes both an English-speaking division and a Spanish-speaking division, which take place simultaneously. In an international debate community dominated by English-speaking speakers and events, this Spanish facet of Pan Ams increases inclusivity across language barriers and fosters cross-cultural community.

The society sent two debate pairs to the tournament, consisting of Amanda Werner '21 and Justin Cooper '22, as well as Nate Obbard '21 and Charlotte Massey '19. Additionally, Middlebury Debate member Van Barth '21 served on the tournament's adjudication team.

"It was quite exhilarating to compete in Pan Ams," said Cooper, the society's Vice President in an email to The Campus."To represent Middlebury College to all of North, South and Central America is a big role to fill, but I feel that we did a good job of filling it." Cooper and Werner made it to semifinals

Both Middlebury teams made it through seven preliminary rounds and placed in the top eight teams in the semifinal rounds. Obbard and Massey continued onto the final round, which covered climate change ethics. They ultimately won the tournament's English division. This marked the team's first time winning a title tournament in known history since its conception in 1912.

Massey explained that competing with Obbard was a deciding factor in their success at Pan Ams. "We were very in sync and had our prep time and speaking roles dialed in." She explained that they have different strengths and that their skill sets balance well.

In fact, Massey and Obbard had seen success together in several tournaments over the course of the season, competing abroad in Oxford, England and Cape Town, South Africa. One week prior to Pan Ams, the pair ranked 22nd at the United States Universities Debating Championship (USUDC) in Clemson, South Carolina.

"In total, we did 20 full rounds of competitive debate during an eight-day period between USUDC and Pan Ams," Massey said.

For the society, which has a particularly young membership this season, it has been a record year. In December, Massey and Obbard placed 70th at the World Universities Debating Championship in Cape Town, a competition including 400 teams from over 90 countries. Werner and Quinn Boyle '21 ranked 224th.

At the Berkeley IV in January, Massey, Barth and Boyle made it to the semifinals, with Massey ranking third speaker overall. In February, Barth and Obbard made it to the quarterfinals of the US Universities Eastern Championship at George Washington University. At the Empire Debates at Kings College in New York City, Massey and Cooper made it to the semifinals, Massey won second varsity speaker, and Cooper won

Continued on Page 4

Through Student Trading Service, Bookstore to Sell Books Again

By LUCY GRINDON
Opinion Editor

As this semester comes to an end, the college bookstore has taken over MiddBooks, a book-trading website set up by students Pete Palumbo '20 and Marty Williams '20 at the beginning of this academic year to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange after the bookstore stopped carrying books.

The MiddBooks website, accessible at go/middbooks, is entirely free for both buyers and sellers. It functions as a platform for individual classified ads, similar to the Free & For Sale Facebook page that many students have used to buy and sell books in the past. The key difference is that MiddBooks is organized by academic subject. To make a post, students can click on the appropriate subject and leave a comment with the information for the book they want to sell. MiddBooks does not facilitate online payments, so students will be expected to decide on fair prices and exchange money among themselves.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The MiddBooks website is organized by academic subject, with students having the ability to set prices.

Bookstore Manager Erin Jones-Poppe initially reached out to MiddBooks earlier this year to ask about the future of the site. She had been recommending MiddBooks to students trying to sell books that were not being accepted by the official buyback program, but she wanted to talk more about how the bookstore could promote and support MiddBooks as a resource for students looking to buy books.

In fact, Palumbo had been considering letting MiddBooks die after its slow start last fall, when the books posted on the site vastly outweighed the number of sales.

When Jones-Poppe met with Palumbo and John Schurer '21, who joined MiddBooks to help with marketing this J-term, they decided that the best option for MiddBooks would be absorption by the bookstore, since the bookstore can offer increased publicity and a free website on which MiddBooks can operate. Palumbo self-financed the previous MiddBooks website, middbooks.com, so the bookstore reimbursed him for the payments he had made for the domain.

"By being assumed by the bookstore, we're able to email the whole school at once, link through the school's website, maintain our free status indefinitely and also have a clear path after I graduate as far as who takes over the mantle," said Palumbo, who has managed the MiddBooks site largely on his own since his co-founder went abroad this Winter Term.

To help students see which of their books are in demand, MiddBooks will be posting the bookstore's official spreadsheet that lists required texts for the coming semester. But not every required book will make it onto the spreadsheet.

"Not every professor submits the page back in time in order for the bookstore to know what textbooks they're using, so even if you don't see your textbook on there, it's still probably worth your time to post it anyway," Palumbo said.

The bookstore also hosts a book buyback program operated by MBS Direct, their online bookselling partner, but MBS Direct does not accept all books for buyback. And MiddBooks may prove to be a better option for student sellers if buyers on campus are willing to pay more for quick, in-person book exchange than MBS Direct can offer for buybacks.

Palumbo points out that MiddBooks is also the more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral option, since no shipping has to be involved when a book is going "from Battell to Pearsons."

STUDENTS VOICE FRUSTRATION WITH MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Continued from Page 1

the growing number of students seeking help. Colleges are becoming more competitive, too, suggesting an uptick in student stress levels.

According to Gus Jordan, Parton's executive director of health and counseling services, Middlebury is no different: Middlebury students in 2019 are requesting appointments with Parton counselors at higher rates than ever.

"The number of students requesting counseling appointments has skyrocketed over the last five years," Jordan said. "That number has grown exponentially."

Over the past 25 years, Parton tried to meet growing demand by hiring more counselors, with its counseling staff increasing fivefold during that time. Parton now employs seven counselors and three interns, compared to two counselors in 1995. The counseling center held just under 3,600 counseling sessions during the 2017-2018 school year — compared to 1,130 during the 1995-1996 school year, according to data provided by Jordan.

Scheduling dilemmas

The rise in requests has contributed to droves of students going to Parton to schedule time with a counselor, only to be met with sometimes excruciatingly long waiting periods. Peter Lawrence '21, who has used Parton's counseling service in the past, became frustrated with waiting periods during which his mental health worsened.

"I could never seem to see a counselor two weeks in a row," Lawrence said. "It was bad because I'd have a week and have a productive conversation, then I wouldn't be able to follow it up for a week or two. Often, during those two or three week periods I would really struggle."

When students experience particularly low moments, it can be discouraging to head to Parton's online scheduling portal and see a two-week wait period before counseling appointments are available. These waiting periods can make it feel as though students have to "schedule" mental health episodes, McCarthy said.

"Whenever I started having flare-ups, it's like, wow, I really need to talk to someone about this right now, but there's no availability right now," McCarthy said. "Even if you email and ask for an emergency slot, they kind of make you question whether or not you're having an emergency."

Emergency counseling slots can be scheduled for students in dire need of help, so that those students can then bypass long waiting times. As evidenced by McCarthy's experience, though, students' definition of what constitutes a "crisis" doesn't always line up with Parton's.

"I'm not really the type of person to reach out unless I think something really bad is happening," McCarthy said of the emergency counseling service. "One more person being like, 'Is this real?' is an incredibly disheartening response to a request for help."

According to Jordan, students can see Parton counselors for emergency counseling sessions, available via email or phone request, when they are determined to be at risk of self-harm or are experiencing "significant crisis," such as death of a family member, sexual violence or harassment. If a dean or CRD expresses immediate concern for a student's well-being, Parton "works very hard to get the student in quickly," Jordan said.

Specialized help

Students' frustrations with the college's mental health resources go beyond scheduling and availability. Over the course of The Campus' reporting, students expressed frustration at the lack of care for specific health issues that intertwine closely with mental health.

Alcohol and drug use is one. A student, who asked to be referred to as John, sought counseling after a period of struggle with alcohol abuse and became frustrated at the lack of specialized attention given to alcohol and drug use within the counseling department. The granted John anonymity because of the sensitive nature of his story, and its relationship to drugs and alcohol.

"The fact that they don't have a drug and alcohol counselor here for students who are clearly overusing, or improperly using, is a shame," John said. "College drinking habits determine how you're going to drink for the rest of your life, because that's when you start to form a certain relationship with alcohol. Having a specialized counselor to help with that would be hugely helpful."

John was happy with the positive relationship he was able to develop with his counselor, though he did experience many of the same scheduling frustrations felt by McCarthy and Lawrence. What continued to frustrate him was the lack of specialized knowledge his counselor had about substance abuse.

Staff in the office of Health and Wellness Education and some commons deans are trained to deal with substance use issues, but that doesn't always feel like enough, John said. When alcohol use becomes harmful in the way that it did for him, John said, having a trained expert could be of tremendous help to students.

Though John recognized that hiring a specialized drug and alcohol counselor would pose a financial burden for the college, he said that not doing so ignores the realities of substance use on campus.

"I don't think this is something malicious or someone trying to save money by not hiring a drug and alcohol counselor, but I think it is a lack of being in tune with the student body," he said. "The college has people in the commons who are meant to punish you if you overuse drugs and alcohol. In that way, they very much know what's going on. The difference is they're choosing not to treat the underlying causes of these things."

Hiring a specialized drugs and alcohol counselor is not common practice for college mental health programs. Counseling centers like Parton's instead seek to hire counselors who can address an array of different mental health issues, Jordan said, because counselors must be versatile given the number of students they meet with and issues they confront.

"What we try to do is have staff who are well-enough trained to manage a variety of issues that come in," Jordan said.

Student support groups

Students feel the need for more specialized care in more areas than just substance abuse, however. Henna Vohra and Amanda Werner, both '21, work with the student group Every Body, which provides support to students struggling with eating disorders. Like John, Vohra and Werner feel that the administration has largely ignored the prevalence of an issue that plays a huge role in Middlebury students' mental health.

"The purpose of this club is to get people to talk about eating disorders because it's an issue that gets pushed under the rug," Werner said.

Many students end up coming to Every Body for a level of support that might be better suited to a professional, according to Vohra. Students often come to meetings with medical and psychological questions that exceed the expertise of student organizers.

"We're just a group of students, and we really wish we could help with those types of questions," Vohra said. "But the fact that students have to dig through all available resources and all they could come up with was reaching out to us is really telling of how hard it can be to get help."

Werner and Vohra said that students seeking help with an eating disorder can explore off campus options with Parton's direction — but that opens a new set of questions about access (geography and insurance coverage pose challenges to students), as well as the college's responsibility to provide students care.

"I think that at the point that the campus needs to tell the student, 'We don't have these resources here and therefore we're going to put you off campus to find these resources,' that's when we need to wake up," Werner said. "We need to realize these on-campus resources are not enough. We need to improve."

Solutions

Parton hired a new counselor this past spring. According to Jordan, the newly-hired counselor's schedule was booked solid almost immediately. Counselors are an important part of any college's mental health resources, but they cannot address the growing demand for student mental health services on their own.

"Even if we added three more full-time counselors, I'm not confident that that would solve our problems," he said. "I think that within a month, all of them would be full. We have to think systemically, across the campus for multiple ways of supporting students in these situations."

Instead of relying solely on counseling going forward, Parton and the Office of Health and Wellness are turning to what Jordan terms "creative solutions" to address concerns of students like John, McCarthy and others. Through improved training for students and Res Life staff, Jordan hopes that students will be able to get help from peers, CRDs and deans — people who live and work in close proximity to them — before they reach a level of "crisis."

This fall, Parton will work with the office of Health and Wellness to improve care options across three areas. First, Parton is seeking to organize peer-and-counselor-coordinated support groups for issues like anxiety and academic stress. Second, Jordan is hoping to make online resources — phone apps and cognitive behavior therapy online software programs — more widely available to students. Third, the office of Health and Wellness will expand staffing, including new staff focused on alcohol and drug-related issues.

Parton will also work with the JED Foundation, a public health organization that seeks to provide access to mental health services, to improve care options this fall.

"I think that if we engage in a couple of years of increased training around mental health issues for what lay-people can do to help each other, that will help our campus broadly," Jordan said. "So that student, staff and faculty feel empowered to support a person who is struggling, that might be enough. Then, if it's not enough, to refer that person into counseling."

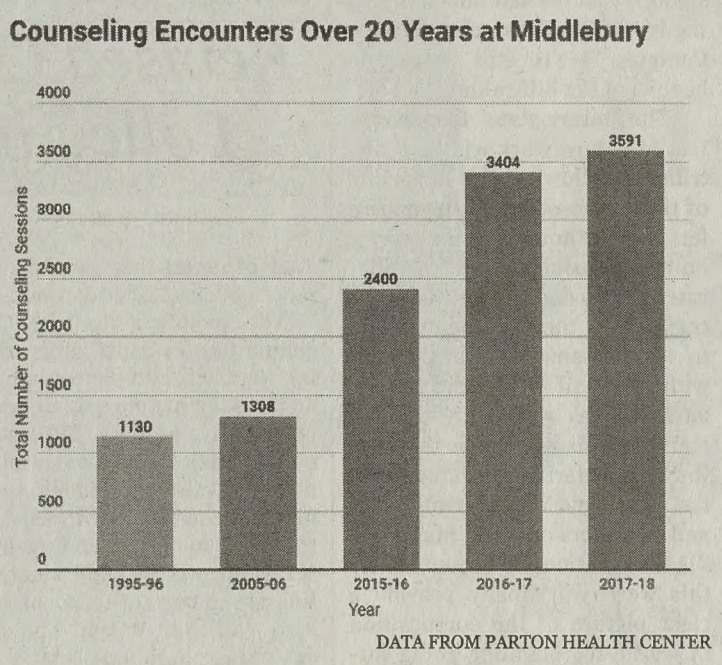
Wonnacott Commons Dean Matt Longman, a member of a campus-wide residential staff that works in close communication with Parton to provide students mental health services, sees it as a good sign that students are seeking out help more actively than in years past.

"I've witnessed a trend in students contacting the college in advance of their start at Middlebury to ensure that a connection will be made in accessing counseling support services," Longman said. "This reflects that many incoming students are entering college with an awareness of what their needs for support will be at Middlebury."

It's important to note that not all students arrive on campus knowing how to ask for help with mental health issues, Longman said. Additionally, he said, the increase in students asking for help is likely the product of more than just heightened awareness; increases in anxiety, depression and other mental health challenges likely correlate to Middlebury's rise as a competitive and high-achieving institution in recent years.

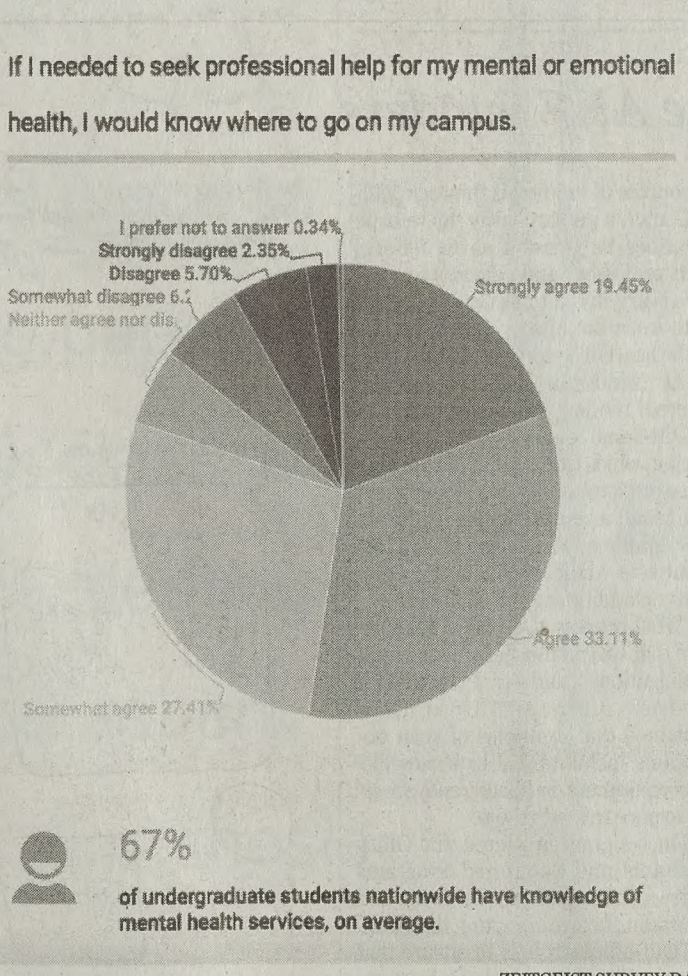
Whether the increase in desire for mental health support is the product of decreased stigma or heightened campus competitiveness — or some middle ground between the two — access to support continues to serve an important purpose in helping students succeed in environments like Middlebury's. For students who come to Middlebury from high school or family backgrounds in which mental healthcare was unavailable, seeing a counselor for the first time can be a transformational experience.

"The first time I went to Parton and talked about a bunch of issues I'd had in my home life was the first time I'd had an adult say, 'wow, that's messed up,'" McCarthy said. "I was a scared 18 year old and I was thinking, why can't I deal with these things in a way that makes sense to me? Having someone outside of my family, outside of my peer group, say 'it's okay that you're feeling this way because of what has happened to you' was incredibly affirming, and that's really what I needed out of that time."

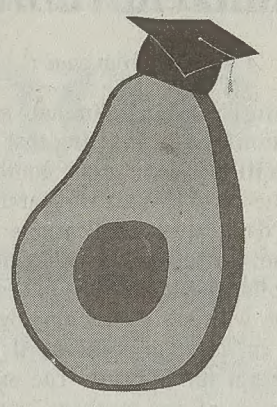


DATA FROM PARTON HEALTH CENTER

Student visits to Parton counseling have surged in recent years.


If I needed to seek professional help for my mental or emotional health, I would know where to go on my campus.
I prefer not to answer 0.34%
Strongly disagree 2.35%
Disagree 5.70%
Somewhat disagree 6.2
Neither agree nor dis
Strongly agree 19.45%
Agree 33.11%
Somewhat agree 27.41%
67%
of undergraduate students nationwide have knowledge of mental health services, on average.

ZEITGEIST SURVEY DATA



SADIE HOUSBERG

MEATLESS IN MONTEREY:

MIIS to Hold Vegan Graduation Ceremony

By SABINE POUX
Senior News Editor

When the 266 graduates of the Monterey Institute for International Studies (MIIS) walk at commencement this year, they will be walking at the nation's most sustainable graduation yet. The school will make history as the first institute of higher education to hold a 100% vegan graduation ceremony, featuring plant-based foods from around the globe — and not a meat or dairy product in sight.

MIIS already operates on a 50/50 policy, which mandates that at least half of the fare offered at school events must be vegan. But the new plan takes that policy a step further by excluding animal products from the ceremony altogether. The commencement menu will feature vegan cuisine including hummus and falafel, potato samosas, fishless sushi, cashew-based cheeses donated by Miyoko and platters of vegan desserts.

Jason Scorse, who chairs the institute's International Environmental Policy program, is among those leading the initiative. He sees meat and dairy reduction at MIIS events as an invaluable practice of sustainability, one that works in tandem with Middlebury's commitment to divestment from fossil fuels and its other environmental projects.

"I don't think most people realize how absolutely devastating the meat and dairy is to the ecology of the planet, and also to human health," he said in an interview with the Campus. "Major reductions — and perhaps complete elimination — of meat and dairy as key food industries in the future is really key for sustainability."

Scorse hopes the menu's international focus will expose graduates and their families to the wide variety of vegan food, and will encourage them to incorporate plant-based products into their everyday lives.

"I think a lot of people are actually going to find out that they really like the stuff and that they might want to go and pursue some of this stuff on their own," he said. "No matter what you eat, even if you're a hardcore meat eater, you should be celebrating this, because this is going to be an interesting, fun opportunity to learn more and to see how to incorporate these kind of products into your lifestyle."

Not everyone at MIIS is excited about the plan. There's a small contingent of students that is outspokenly opposed to the initiative, and has been circulating a petition against it. But Scorse isn't fazed.

"As an institution of higher learning, we're trying to be innovative and trying to promote policies and behaviors that are going to hep build a sustainable planet," he said. "And that's really core to Middlebury's ethics and values.

"This isn't about vegans descending on campus and taking over," he added. "It should be exciting and fun."

COURTESY PHOTO

MIXED REVIEWS AS WORKFORCE PLANNING NEARS END

Continued from page 1

the workforce and eliminate staff positions, while ensuring that the separation process was voluntary.

The second week of March, a few days after applications for buyout packages were due, official offers were sent out. In accordance with state law, employees had 45 days, or until April 29, to accept the buyouts. The exact contents of the package varied depending on salary and duration of employment at Middlebury. Following the April 29 deadline, staff were entitled to a seven-day period during which they could rescind their acceptance.

Although administrators will not know definitively until after accepted separation offers are finalized on May 7, college communications so far suggest that there will be no need for involuntary layoffs, which had been mentioned as a possible last resort if not enough employees took buyouts. Most recently, a March 15 email to faculty and staff said that the 47 buyout applications "put us on track to achieve our goal" of reducing employee compensation by 10%.

For some staff members, especially those already planning to retire, the buyout was a welcome opportunity. For others, the process has been draining, especially when paired with the implementation of Oracle, a new online financial platform that some staff complain is difficult to navigate.

"I've worked here for 18 years, and right now stress levels are the highest I've ever seen them," said Missey Thompson, a staff council representative and box office coordinator at the Mahaney Center for the Arts.

Some staff who received separation offers but did not want to leave the college were able to find new positions, either within their old department or in a new one. Others have had more trouble.

One employee, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation, currently holds a position slated to end in June. "I have been here over 31 years, and I cannot afford to take the buyout," she told The Campus. The staff member, who applied to three newly created positions through the private portal, has been rejected from one and never heard back from the other two. Despite repeated assurances from the college that "individuals who are offered the incentive and do not take it will remain employed at Middlebury," some staff are faced with terminated positions and limited options in the coming year.

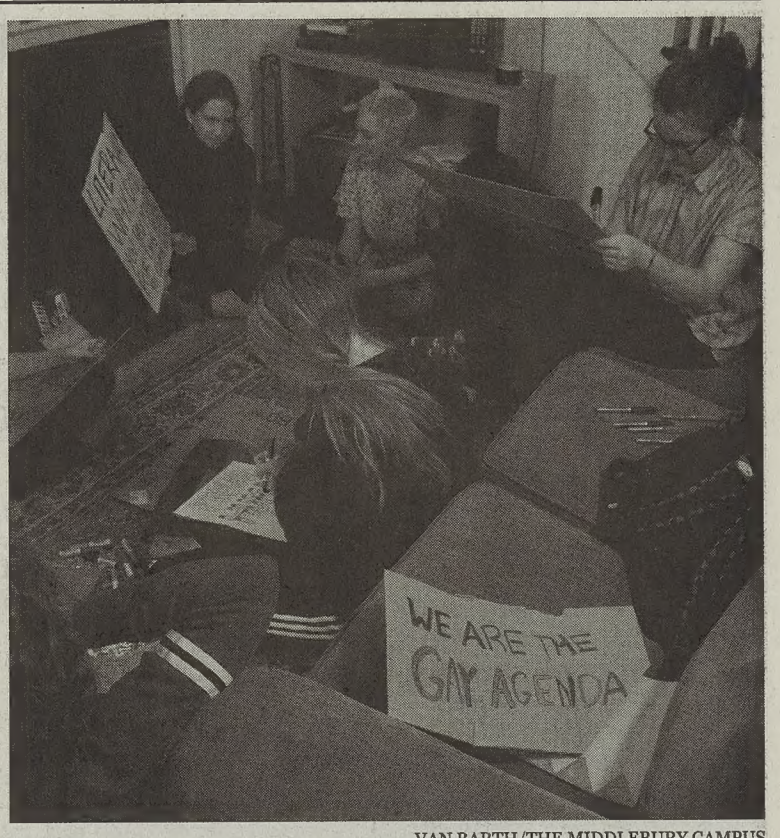
Still, many staff appreciate the intentionality that has gone into this process, especially compared to staff cuts the college undertook in past years, which left crucial positions unoccupied or left long-time employees abruptly out of work. Nonetheless, the communication (or lack thereof) from leadership throughout the months-long process added an additional layer to an already nerve-wracking process.

On more than one occasion, staff learned details about the progress of workforce planning from media reports before receiving any communication from the administration. The all-staff email announcing that letters would arrive within the week notifying staff their position had been terminated, along with a buyout offer, was not sent until Feb. 4, five days after a Jan. 31 Addison Independent article containing the same news. And many staff had been unaware that up to 40 new positions would be created through workforce planning until The Campus reported that fact in February. That figure was eventually lowered to 30.

Staff also report experiencing limited communication across departments. Since each department had its own restructuring plan to eliminate 10% of personnel expenses, much communication about buyouts was left to individual department leaders — a decentralized approach that led to miscommunications and confusion as staff heard about reductions and changes in other departments through word of mouth.

Tim Parsons, the president of staff council, says this has contributed to a lingering anxiety among staff. "With differing levels of communications by department, the process did not go as smoothly as we had hoped across the institution," Parsons told The Campus. "We're still waiting to hear what the future state will be."

The "future state" Parsons refers to is how work will be redistributed following the departure of those who accepted buyout offers. But without knowing exactly how responsibilities will be allocated, many departments are concerned that they will be expected to do the same amount of work with less staff. While the administration has repeatedly assured staff that this will not be the case, the lack of clarity on a future state has left some department heads and managers on edge. Staff hope the finalization of buyout offers this week will finally provide a clear picture of the composition of workforce planning going forward.



VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Student organizers designed posters in preparation for Ryszard Legutko's visit to campus three weeks ago.

Revised College Protest Policy in the Works

Continued from Page 1

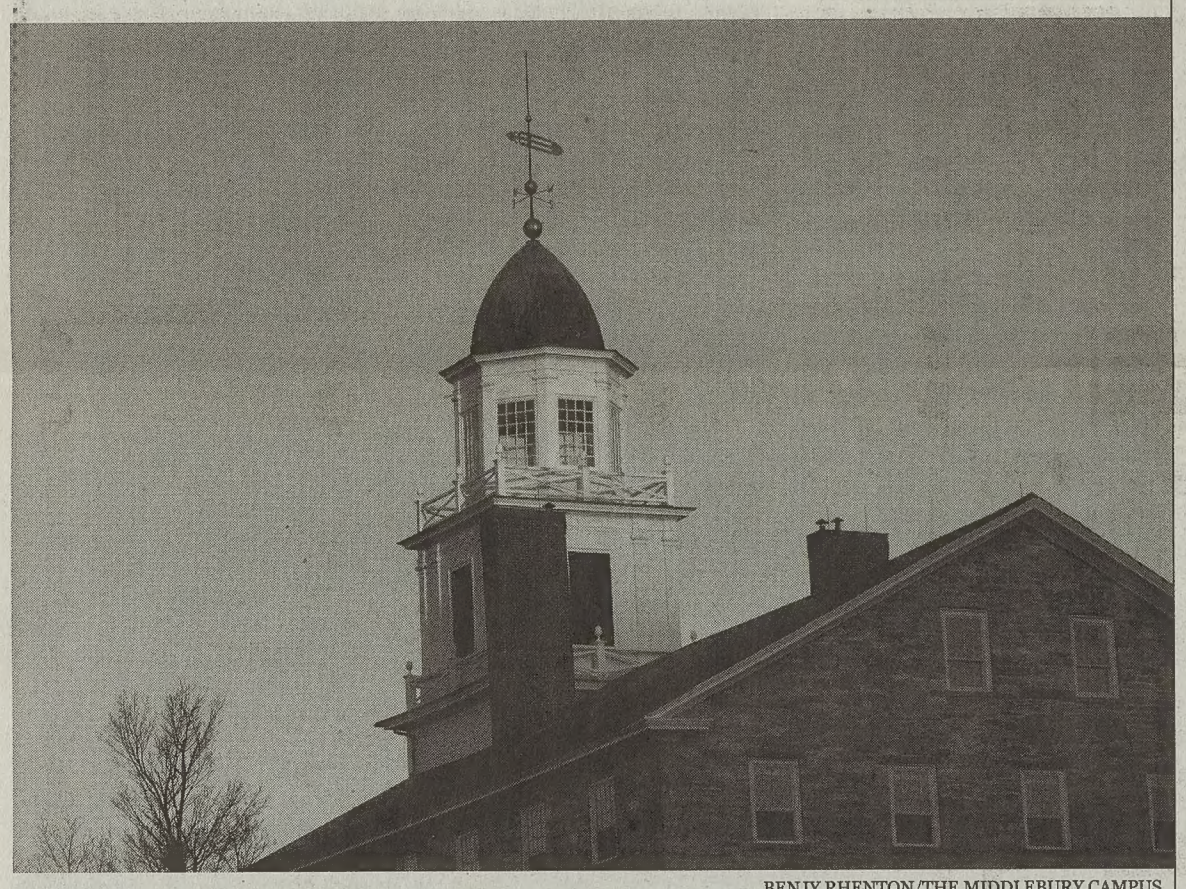
kind of issues that were in those other policies," Sheridan said.

The modified draft that the committee developed after receiving feedback, and plans to present at the May meeting, is organized beneath five headers: "Protest and demonstration are rooted in our educational mission," "Public speech must be consistent with academic freedom, integrity, and respect," "Peaceful protest and demonstration are important forms of activism," "All students and employees can engage in non-disruptive protest and demonstration," and "Disruptive behavior will be subject to sanction."

Though the committee's new draft is more concise than Ross's, it is still much longer than Brown's twelve-sentence policy. Rick Bunt, professor of chemistry & biochemistry, said at the faculty meeting that the Brown policy was "pithy," able to convey a lot of information in few words. He questioned whether shortening the new draft could make it even more effective.

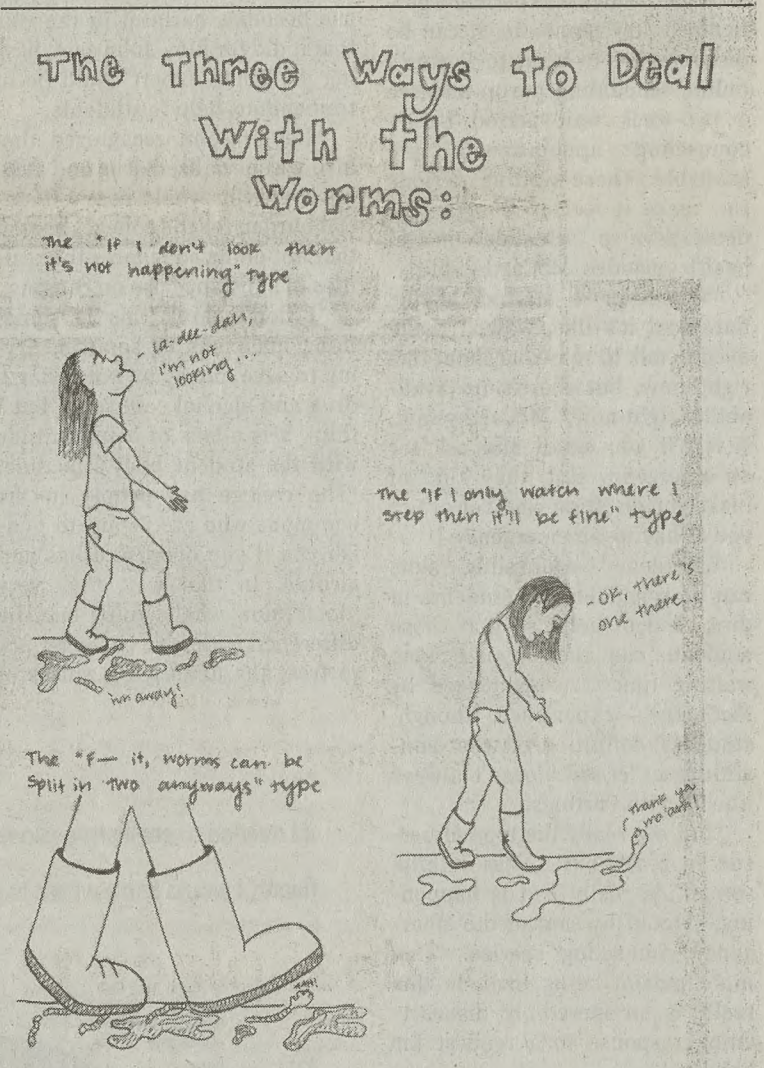
Renee Wells, director of education for equity and inclusion, was the only staff member on the committee. Following faculty questions about what might be considered "demeaning" speech, condemned alongside hatred in the draft policy, Wells said that the goal was not to prohibit speakers or ideas, but to prevent speech that targets people.

The faculty cannot approve or reject the policy at the May meeting, but their vote will be considered representative of the collective faculty opinion on the proposal moving forward.



BENJY RHENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

'I've worked here for 18 years, and right now stress levels are the highest I've ever seen them," said Mahaney Center Box Office Coordinator Missey Thompson of the college's workforce planning period.


The Three Ways to Deal With the Worms:
The "If I don't look then it's not happening" type
-la-dee-dah, I'm not looking...
-I'm away!
The "If I only watch where I step then it'll be fine" type
-OK, there's one there...
-there you go, no oath!
The "F— it, worms can be split in two anyways" type

SARAH FAGAN

DEBATE GROUP COMPETES IN PAN-AM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Continued from Page 2

second novice speaker.

Massey reflected on her four years on the team, noting that, after graduating a class of talented debaters her first year, the team underwent a redeveloping period. Now, the majority of the team is composed of sophomores and first-years.

All debaters said that the sense of community on the debate team is the reason they keep working towards their goals, not to mention the valuable critical thinking and presentation skills they are building.

"Since joining the debate team in my freshman year, I have formed close friendships with other members of the team," Werner said. "I truly love debate's close-knit community, and I value how much we support one another both inside and outside of debate rounds."

Next year, the team will look to build on its current success with a new group of novices. For more information about the debate society, or to join, contact debateso@middlebury.edu.

Organizers Disclose AHF Funders

Continued from page 1

The Hamilton Forum received through IHS's Grant for Free Speech and Open Inquiry program, which is supported by the Clifford S. Asness Foundation. The IHS website says the grant is "designed to support faculty who are interested in fostering free speech and civil discourse in academia as they undertake research, plan campus events, or develop student curricula exploring the past, present, and future of free speech."

Grants range from $5,000 to $25,000 and relevant subject areas include the history and theory of free speech, philosophical and legal defenses of free speech, and the importance of open inquiry and intellectual diversity in higher education.

Charles G. Koch, chairman and CEO of Koch Industries, sits on the Board of Directors of IHS. Koch Industries is the second-largest company in America based on revenue, and includes businesses such pipelines, crude oil refinement and Dixie cups. Charles Koch and his brother David are well-known philanthropists and political donors, best known for contributing to the campaigns of conservative politicians. In recent years, they have also donated heavily to initiatives regarding free speech on college campuses, including donating to schools in an attempt to influence the hiring and fire of faculty members, as was the case at George Mason University.

In a 2018 article, The Center for Public Integrity reported on the Koch brothers' contributions to college campuses, stating that their mission is "to inculcate the next generation with a philosophy like their own."

One of the Hamilton Forum's other sources of funding is the Jack Miller Center, a public charity. Its website describes its mission as to "[work] with professors and educators to ensure every student has the opportunity to learn the history and principles at the heart of American political life."

At Middlebury, groups seeking external funding must go through an "institutional endorsement" process during which the "principal investigator/project director," department chair, and a representative of the senior administration sign off on the grant as a whole, and in some situations on additional specifications.

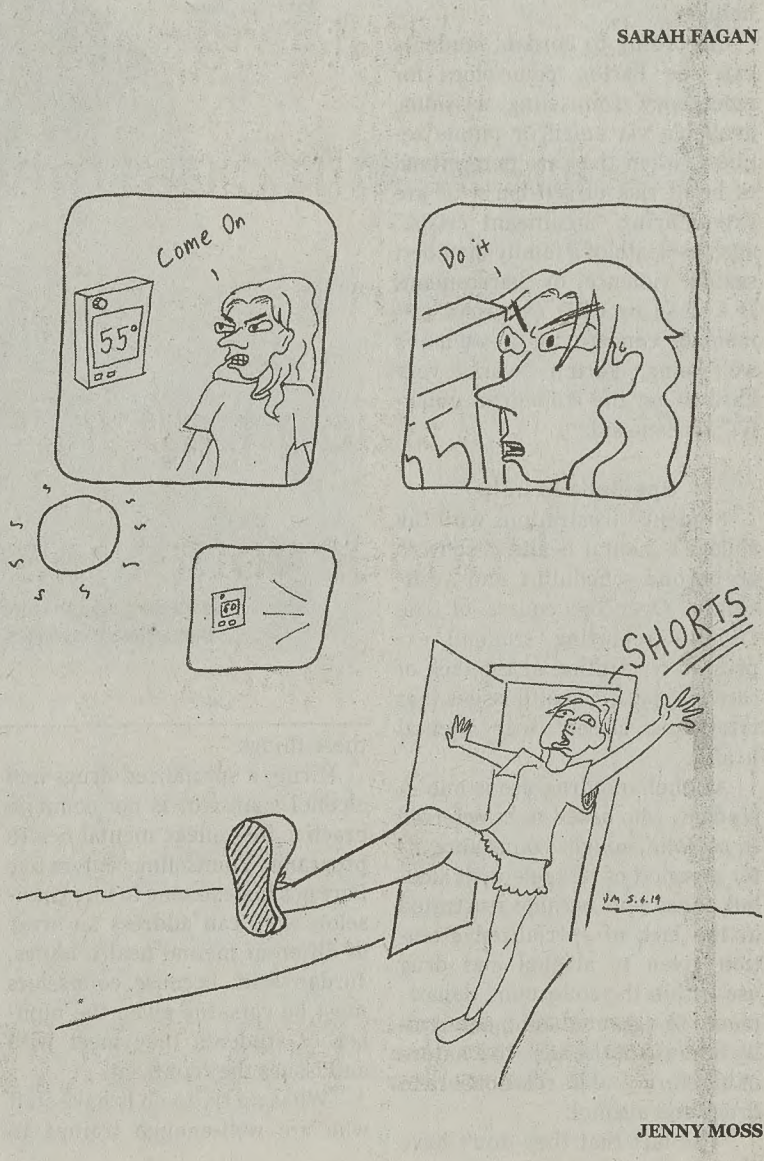
"That process also allows us to ensure that we can meet any institutional obligations," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Andi Lloyd. Lloyd explained that examples of such obligations include extra expenses like new equipment or space renovations for science related grants.

Once a grant is offered, the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs reviews and negotiates the terms and conditions before accepting the grant.

"Our office's role is to ensure that outgoing grant proposals are in compliance with internal and external policies/regulations," said Chuck Mason, the director of grants and sponsored programs, in an email to The Campus.

Mason explained that the office will not sign off on a grant if there are any errors in the application or if the "institutional endorsement" is not complete.

Lloyd said that an administrator may choose not to sign off on a grant if the college is not able to meet the obligations of the grant — whether that means accommodations for a speaker, space renovations for a science project, or anything in between.



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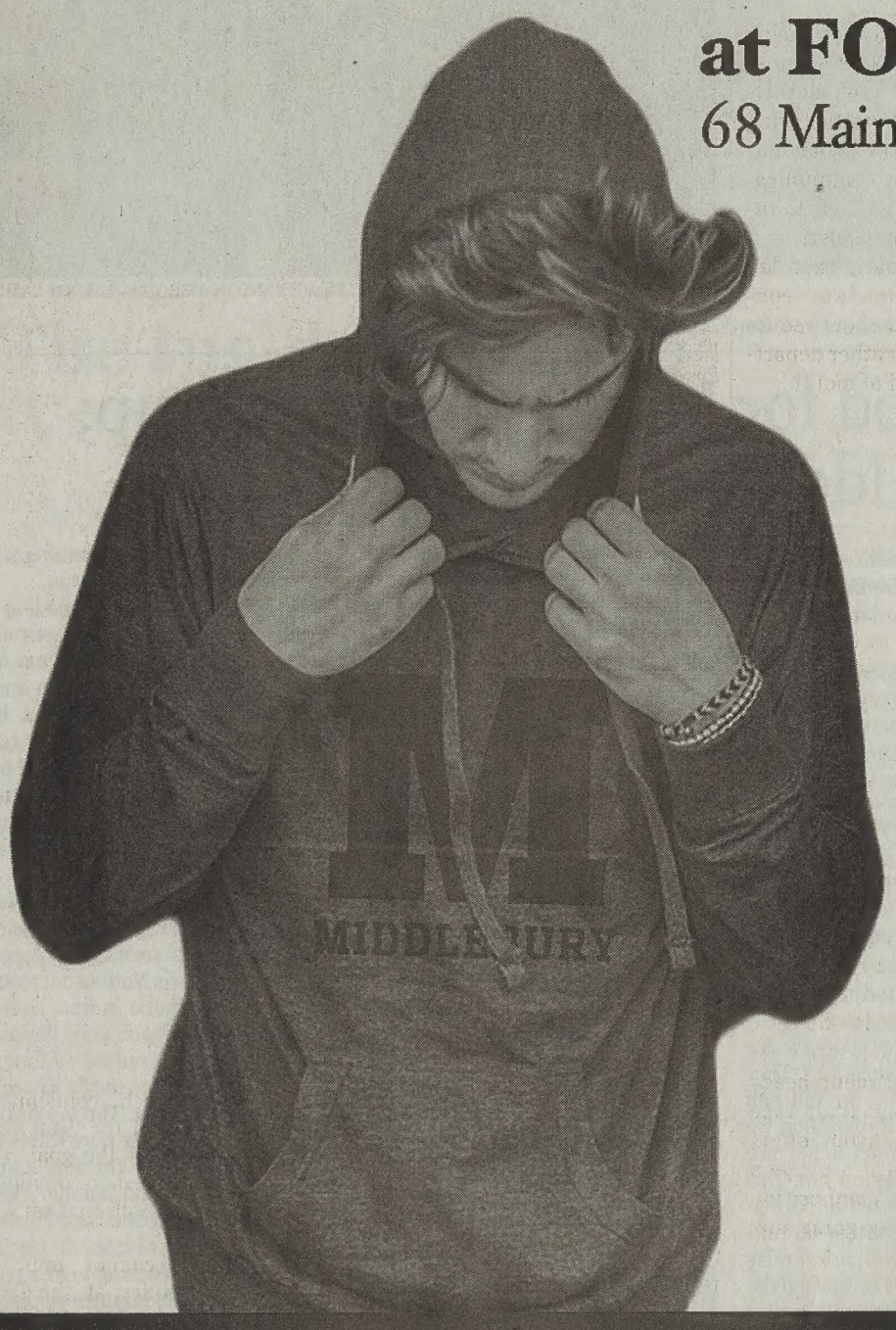

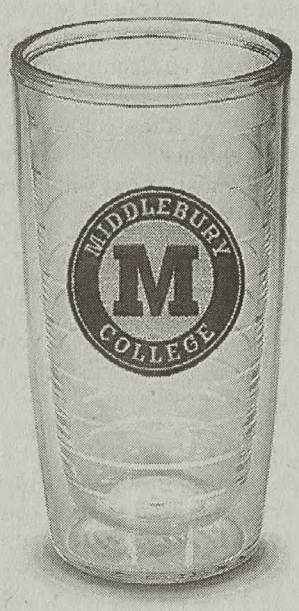

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Staying in Vermont this summer? Here's our can't-miss list. *xoxo,* your Local Editor team.

In just a couple short weeks, as the semester winds down, some of us will pack up our dorm rooms for the final time, some will go home or jet off to various corners of the world for the summer months, while some won't go very far at all. As your Local Editor team, we thought we would leave those of you who will be staying on campus or in Vermont this summer with some ideas of things to do when the hubbub of moving out and farewells dies down. So we brainstormed some of our personal favorite events, activities and adventures, as well as those recommended to us by our friends and peers. While this is by no means a comprehensive list of all that Vermont has to offer, we hope you will come across something new and exciting — or maybe even be reminded of some old favorite activities and haunts. We encourage you to use this summer to get off campus and learn more about the state we all live in, even if many of us do so only temporarily.

CLASSIC VT

- Check out Billings Farm in Woodstock, or Shelburne Farms off Route 7 to pet some adorable baby animals.
- Don't miss the lively music scene! Be sure to check out the indoor and outdoor concert schedules at Shelburne Farms, Higher Ground and ArtsRiot.
- The Middlebury Farmers Market: a staple weekend activity right nearby.
- Get caffeinated before starting your day at Royal Oak Coffee, Middlebury's new café!
- Check out our creemee roundup to find your favorite soft-serve joint.
- Into historical landmarks and beautiful gardens? Check out Hildene, the former summer home of Abraham Lincoln's son, in Manchester, VT.
- Enjoy food trucks and live music on Fridays at Arts Riot!
- Looking for a date night spot or a place to bring your parents when they visit? Try Revolution Kitchen.
- Over 21? Check out some of VT's Breweries including: Fiddlehead, Foley Brothers, Switchback, The Alchemist, Long Trail, and Citizen Cider. Or sample them all at the Vermont Brewers Festival in Burlington, where 50 of the state's best breweries will gather for a weekend.
- More into wine? Visit the local Lincoln Peak Winery: If you're 21, living in Middlebury and looking for a serene place to drink some wine, drive ten minutes north on Route 7 to Lincoln Peak Winery. You can taste five of their wines for just $5 (this is a steal), and you get to keep the wine glass you use! The winery sits beside a cute little pond, so you can lounge outside on their porch by the water with your glass of wine or even pack a picnic and spread out on the grass among the vines (and eat all the grapes you want). The winery also hosts live music out on their back lawn or porch most Sundays throughout the summer: the Honey Badgers will kick off the season on June 9. Once you get there, try the Ragtime Red 2017 — you won't regret it.

EVENTS & MORE

- Foodaroo 5 in the Historic Marble Works District: food trucks, vendors, farms, culinary artisans and beverage producers from all across the Green Mountain State will gather at Marble Works, just a few minute walk from campus, for an evening full of delicious food, live music and dance performances. Come prepared with $5 in hand and a big appetite to indulge in local delicacies! The fifth annual festival, presented by Middlebury UndergrounD (MUD), is slated for Sunday, June 23 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Cheeseout like our editor did at the 11th Annual Cheesemakers Festival at Shelburne Farms: Sunday, August 11.
- Feeling groovy? Listen to the next great musician at the Burlington Jazz Festival from May 31 to June 9.
- Not into jazz? Hit up Woodchuck Music Festival (Ciderstock).
- It's not a summer in Vermont without walking with some cows. Head to Brattleboro for the Strolling of the Heifers on the second weekend of June!
- Tumble down to Burlington for the annual Tumble Down Festival (feat. The Big Sip).
- Reach for the skies at the Quechee Hot Air Balloon Festival.
- But you don't have to go far to have a good time: Starting July 7, the town of Middlebury will host a week of free concerts and festivities for its annual Festival on the Green.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- When the sun gets too hot to take, cool down at one of VT's many glorious swimming spots including: Dog Team Road, Branbury State Park at Lake Dunmore, Falls of Lana, Bartlett (Bristol) Falls, Warren Falls and the Bolton Potholes. Have an hour? Bike to East Middlebury Gorge for a dip! The Middlebury River in East Middlebury is one of the most accessible swimming spots in the area. In July and August, locals flock to the rocks underneath the Route 125 bridge right before the steep ascent up Middlebury Gap. It's a 7-mile bike ride from campus: follow Seminary Street Extension to Foote Street to Cady Road, all of which have great views of the Western Spine of the Green Mountains. Take a right onto Route 116, which will bring you to East Middlebury. At the light, take a left and follow 125 up to the bridge. East Middlebury Gorge, like many local swimming holes is known for its clear, but very cold, water.
- In Burlington for the day? Try biking across Lake Champlain on the causeway and bring a picnic for later.
- Some beautiful hikes and walks: Mt. Mansfield, Lone Rock Point, Camel's Hump, Silver Lake, Hamilton Falls and Otter Creek Park: Need a quick dose of nature? The Otter View Park is located a few hundred feet past Freeman Drive on Weybridge Street and is an ideal spot for getting a nature fix on a tight schedule. Follow the wooden footpath across the marsh to gorgeous views of Otter Creek, or simply admire Middlebury's native wetlands from one of the park's many benches. Park regulars include Zeus and Thor, two pugs who frequent the trail with their owner.
- If you're into some thrill seeking, venture up to Bolton for some rock climbing, cliff jump (safely please!) at Red Rocks in South Burlington, zipline at Sugarbush, or visit the Get Air Trampoline park in Williston.
- For a more relaxed way to spend some quality time outside, take a brunch cruise on Lake Champlain with Spirit of Ethan Allen: The next time you're trying to find a low-stress activity for a hot summer day, head down to Lake Champlain for a scenic boat tour. Perfect for when relatives come to visit or just a slow sunny day, the tour offers an hour and a half of historic narration of Lake Champlain, stunning views and both indoor and outdoor seating. It sets sail every two hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. all summer and only costs about $22. The company also offers a Sunset Cruise, Champagne on Champlain Brunch Cruise and Lunch on the Lake Cruise, among many other themed rides. These can get a little pricey (though not as bad as you'd expect), so we recommend the classic Scenic Narrated Cruise, and that you order a lemonade and drink it on a bench outside on the bow of the boat. Even on warm days, bring a jacket! It gets breezy.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Middlebury Maple Runners race towards a sweet finish.

Good for More than Just Syrup: Middlebury Maple Run 2019

By DANNY GRUBBS-DONOVAN
Contributing Writer

Hundreds of hopeful half-marathoners took off from the starting line at Porter Hospital to run in the Middlebury Maple Run on Sunday, May 5. The race began at 9 a.m., and runners could look forward to a scenic yet hilly trail crisscrossing Middlebury and featuring views of the Green and Adirondack Mountains. Temperatures hovered in the mid-to-high sixties, and no clouds marred the blue sky. A festive air hung over the entire event as supporters and racers alike enjoyed the warm spring day.

Runners had three options for participating in the Maple Run. They could choose between the full half marathon, a relay half marathon (in which teams of two complete the race in two legs) or a 3-mile fun run. This year, 308 runners elected to participate in the full half, another 66 runners ran the race in two-person relay teams and 133 runners completed the 3-mile fun run. Runners of a variety of backgrounds and ages gathered to race. According to the Maple Run press release, nearly 40 percent of the runners in the field traveled from other states to participate, and the race featured finishers as young as 13 and as old as 79.

Many Middlebury College students also chose to spend their Sunday mornings running. William Kelley '21 and Emma Brown '21 made up the second place finishing half-marathon relay team, "Will I Emma ple Run Team." Though the name may seem like a typo, it is actually a pun that subtly weaves the two runners' names into the phrase Maple Run. The duo — silly name and all — embodied the casual and joyful spirit of Sunday's competition.

Kelley reported having a great time at the race. "All of the runners were super supportive and there was a lot of energy all along the course. Every time I got over a tough hill, there were people pushing me on at the top, which almost made me look forward to the next one," he said.

Brown agreed, and she plans to push herself even further in coming years, saying "the full half marathon is definitely now on my bucket list of things to do while at Middlebury."

The registration fee for the full half was $45 for students and $65 for non-students. Around 50 of the Middlebury students running the race, including Brown and Kelley, had their registration fee partially covered by Middruns, the college running club. Leila Markosian '21, who is the treasurer of Middruns and also ran the half marathon, said that this was the highest number of race entries that the club has ever sponsored.

"Middruns aims to make running as accessible as possible for everyone," she explained. "It's important for Middruns to sponsor student entrance fees since that cost may be the thing preventing someone from participating in the Maple Run."

The Maple Run organization uses the proceeds from the race to support a number of causes. This year, the money was distributed between six Addison County area nonprofits including WomenSafe, Addison County Home Health and Hospice and Habitat for Humanity. Since the Maple Run was first held in 2009, the race has generated over $65,000 for local nonprofits like these organizations.

The Maple Run organizers also provided extensive support to the runners. Many aid stations dotted the race courses, and runners were greeted at the finish line by a pancake breakfast and a convivial atmosphere on the lawn outside of Porter Hospital. Finished runners and their friends and families enjoyed pancakes and the beautiful weather as race organizers jubilantly announced the name of each new runner to approach the finish line. Many exhausted runners lounged on the grass, while others cradled bouquets of flowers brought by supporters. There was an air of triumph about the scene as the runners, having completed their collective challenge, milled about chatting with friends and basking in the sun.

In addition to the satisfaction of completing the race, there was also a bevy of prizes available to top finishers. All runners to cross the finish line received a finisher's medal, but the fastest three male and female runners were awarded $25, $50 and $75 respectively. In addition, the top male and female finishers in each age category were awarded a bottle of Vermont-made maple syrup.

Middlebury College students featured heavily among the top finishers in the race. On the men's side, Morgan Perlman '19, Lewis Nottonson '19 and Ben Arquit '20 came in first, second and third place respectively. Perlman completed the 13.1 miles in a time of 1:18.40, which comes out to a pace of six minutes per mile. The top finishers for women in order were Kimberly Lord of South Hero, Vermont, Catherine Marshall '21 and Jennifer Moltz of Hyde Park, Vermont. Lord finished the race in a time of 1:30.28, placing 11th overall and clocking in at a pace of just under seven minutes per mile.

High spirits abounded throughout the entire event. Combined with the timely arrival of lovely spring weather, this made for a highly successful edition of the Middlebury Maple Run. The tradition is a force for good in the community, bringing local residents and college students alike out to compete, drawing visitors to the area and contributing money to local charities. Looking back on this year's event, one can only hope that the Maple Run continues to host successful races like this one for years to come.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

'Will I Emma Ple Run' relay team trades off wristbands at the six-mile mark.

What Sanders Misses When He 'Berns' the Media

By HATTIE LEFAVOUR
Local Editor

The day after Bernie Sanders was elected mayor of Burlington in 1981 by a tenuous margin of 10 votes, he told his colleagues, "We can't survive. We're going to have to develop our own media." As a somewhat ridiculed far-left candidate, Sanders was not receiving the policy-driven coverage he had sought. Instead, he took office feeling scorned by reports he saw as bombastic "junk" from mainstream Vermont news outlets.

As promised, a few years into his run as mayor, Sanders began his own television show called "Bernie Speaks with the Community," his way of taking over the narrative surrounding his anomalous socialist ideology. By controlling his own unilateral platform, his messages could no longer get lost in translation in two-minute news bites and offhanded articles.

Three decades later in 2015, Sanders saw these same messages bring him national fame as Democrats across the country sang his praises and policy-makers began paying attention. Although "Bernie Speaks with the Community" has long-since been discontinued, his desire for self-published media has proven unremitting.

Most of Senator Sanders's public rhetoric on the matter now focuses on deriding corporate media for propagating useless, corrupt political narratives. He is also known among reporters for decrying negative stories and shying away from difficult questions, but nothing demonstrates his unabashed media spurn like his neglect for Vermont newspapers.

Last week marked four years since he last granted an interview to Seven Days, a Burlington-based weekly that is the most circulated local press in Vermont. Contradicting his own stance on corporate media, he dismisses Seven Days and other local papers like the VTDigger as "political gossip" and instead grants interviews to large news outlets like ABC, Time and CBS.

Seven Days Political Editor Paul Heintz is among those most shut out by Sanders.

"I find it ironic when he goes out of his way to talk to corporate media but refuses to speak to his home-state independent press," said Heintz in an interview with The Campus. "If he really wanted to support the independent media, he could just talk to us."

Unlike President Trump, Senator Sanders does not threaten the freedom of the press or challenge its autonomy. But it seems he may misunderstand its role -- not for himself, but for Vermonters.

"His ideal coverage is essentially for us to reprint his press releases and to just quote verbatim his policy proposals," Heintz said.

VTDigger Senior Editor Mark Johnson agrees. "He uses the media to further his agenda," he said, adding that Sanders's ideal reporter would serve as a simple stenographer.

On a timeline of Senator Sanders's career history with the press, this makes sense. Even through years of criticizing Vermont media as mayor and senator, Sanders granted local interviews and held press conferences to communicate his policies to his constituents. This practice ended abruptly when he stepped onto the national stage with the announcement of his first run for president on April 30, 2015, which was the very last day he spoke to Seven Days.

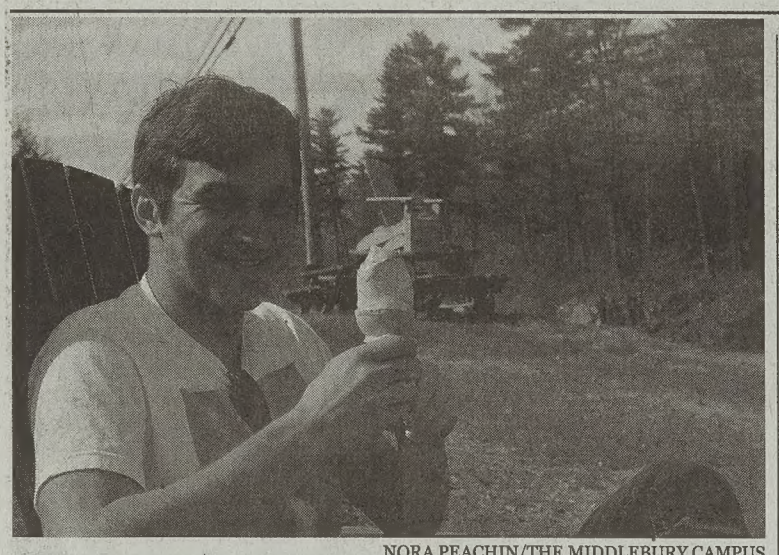
Nowadays, Sanders knows he's not in any position to lose support among Vermonters. He swept the state in the 2016 Democratic primary with 16 delegates to Clinton's zero, and he won re-election to the Senate in 2018 without breaking a sweat. On the other hand, since his constituents know and support his ideology, Sanders sees the local news as having exhausted its utility.

"He doesn't need the Vermont press, but it's not a question of what he needs. It's a question of what the people of Vermont need," Heintz said. "A reporter from CNN is not going to be asking him about what he is doing in the Senate to support the Vermont dairy industry. That's our job."

Mark Johnson expressed a similar sentiment. "There's not really much up-side for him to talk to the Vermont media at this point," Johnson said. "Vermont readers are losing out."

By lack of cooperation with Vermont press since entering the national spotlight, Sanders is impassively

Continued on Page 7



NORA PEACHIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A tasty treat, and a creemee.

The Inside Scoop on Vermont Creemees

By NORA PEACHIN
Staff Writer

It's finally warm out, and for Vermonters, that means it's creemee season. To those unfamiliar with the iconic frozen treat, a creemee is just soft-serve ice cream but with a fun Vermont nickname.

Early May is opening season for many creemee stands. As an ice cream aficionado, I decided to celebrate this momentous time by attempting to visit as many stands as possible in one weekend.

On Saturday, I drove up to Vergennes in the hopes of kicking off my adventure with The Main Scoop, only to find it closed. The store's Facebook page promises it will be open for business this Friday, May 10. Despite this early disappointment, I was determined to satisfy my creemee craving.

Following a friend's recommendation, I continued up to North Ferrisburgh to investigate Vermont Cookie Love. The Love Shack is a small shop right off of Route 7 with a parking lot and benches right outside. Cookie Love sells not only creemees and hard ice cream but also freshly baked cookies, as its name suggests.

As I purchased the desserts, the very friendly cashier recounted that the family-owned business began 10 years ago at the Shelburne Farmers Market. Their website explains that owner Paul Seyler and his family moved to Ferrisburgh from New York City in 2007 and started selling cookies and cookie dough right away.

Cookie Love's creemees are produced by Kingdom Creamery in the Northeast Kingdom. A friend and I shared a small maple creemee into which we dipped chunks of warm cookie. The addition of the cookie was a game changer, to say the least.

The stand and the owner's story were compelling; the slightly awkward destination right on the side of the highway, less so. But overall, Cookie Love served up a tasty creemee.

Next, I brought it a little closer to home with Burnham Maple Farm and Market, only a few minutes' drive from campus. A wooden, creemee-shaped sign greets you as you drive up, reading "Pure Vermont Maple Creemies." The grass in front of the quaint red building is covered in lawn chairs of all sizes and colors.

Burnham is open year-round, selling all sorts of sweet maple treats and other local products. The store began its creemee season early, opening on April 4.

The owner explained that the business has been producing their own maple syrup and frozen maple treats for five years now. Perhaps it was the history, but the Burnham maple creemee seemed to have a deeper, more intense maple flavor than all the others I tried. There was also something so quintessentially Vermont about sitting in an Adirondack chair, licking away at a maple creemee.

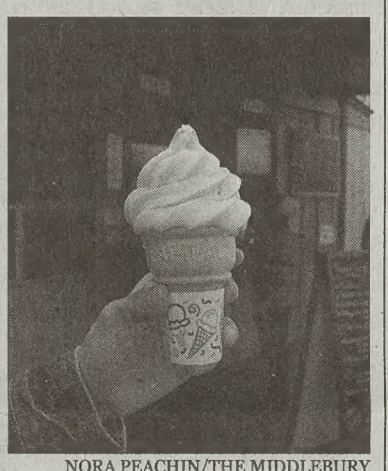
Third on my list was the Village Creeme, a Bristol favorite. This establishment was perhaps the most aesthetically charming, with its white and yellow awning, big yellow sign and picnic tables.

The Village Creeme opened for the summer this Monday, May 6 and people flocked to the stand to celebrate. Families and couples waited in line to purchase not only creemees but also mac and cheese bites, burgers and more.

The portions were generous and the atmosphere welcoming at the bustling Bristol business.

For my final stop, I pulled up to Shafer's Market in downtown Middlebury. Like the Village Creeme, there was a long line at the ice cream window. When it was finally my turn to place my order, I was told that the maple creemees were too soft to put into a cone.

Personally, I think half the fun of a creemee is eating it out of a cone, so I went with chocolate instead. Although I was disappointed by the maple issue, Shafer's certainly offered the most bang for my buck. And, sitting on the outdoor benches, people-watching, creemee in hand, is an unbeatable, classic Middlebury experience.



NORA PEACHIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The maple creemee; a classic Vermont frozen treat.

I would return to all the soft-serve joints I visited, but I most enjoyed Burnham Maple Farm and Market. It was the only location that made the creemees on-site from scratch, and this was evident in the creemee's flavor.

Ultimately, summer in Vermont is not complete without tasting at least one of these frozen dairy treats — although perhaps not four in one weekend. I'm not sure I can, in good conscience, advise that to anyone else. But there is certainly something special about sitting out in the warm sun, savoring some icy cold creemees with your friends.

Sanders Spurns Vermont Media Outlets

Continued from Page 6

disconnecting himself from the loyal home base that elected him as their senator. Even before his run for president, however, Sanders was quick to shut down topics he didn't want to discuss. While serving as mayor in 1985, he accredited President Reagan's popularity to his avoidance of difficult questions. Adopting this policy himself, Sanders frequently dismissed even substantive, policy-based inquiries from reporters if they weren't on the topic he wanted to discuss that day.

After the Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012, for example, when Sanders was criticized for his resistance to extensive gun legislation, he refused to grant Seven Days an interview for two-and-a-half months. When he finally spoke to them, he moved quickly past the topic of gun reform.

This treatment from Sanders is not always just a simple disregard for these outlets. It has sometimes verged on outright animosity. Seven Days and VTDigger both reported on the long-term federal investigation of Jane Sanders, the senator's wife and one of his top political advisers, after a seemingly fraudulent $10 million land deal she made during her time as president of the now-defunct Burlington College. Although the investigation was closed last year without charges, Sanders vehemently opposed news coverage of the story and dismissed it as "gossip."

Paul Heintz disagrees with that label. "That's not reporters probing into salacious details of their personal lives," he said of Seven Days' reporting on the investigation. "That's asking reasonable questions about the legality of people who pay a very prominent role in a senator's political operations."

The rejection of this coverage encapsulates the break between Sanders's perceived role of the press and its real purpose. He lauds the hypothetical concept of the media for its democratic service yet pushes back hard against stories that report anything beyond cut-and-dry policy. Although the press serves an important role in truthfully reporting politicians' messages, equally important is its role in pressing tough issues, asking uncomfortable questions and telling the whole story.

"Reporters are essentially a stand-in for the public," said Heintz. When Senator Sanders ignores local reporters, he ignores his local base. He may not need Vermont leading up to his bid for the 2020 Democratic nomination, but he's still our senator, and we still need him.

WHAT EVEN IS ENTRÉE?

By ARIADNE WILL
Staff Writer

Unlike many students across campus, for David Valentin '19 and Wilson Brown '19, Entrée was not a service that mysteriously appeared on a flyer slid under their dorm-room door. For these seniors, the food-ordering software that debuted in late April has been years in the making.

"Sophomore year, David and I would read articles about all these great advances in San Francisco, where David was going to be working, and New York, where I was going to be working," Brown said. "We would go home at night and not see any of those kinds of things in rural Vermont, so bringing that kind of business model here became our goal."

Entrée had 313 users as of May 5, and the founders hope that their ongoing project will improve the lives of students and restaurant owners alike. "Entrée was an idea we had because we wanted to apply conveniences that a lot of cities offer to students here in Middlebury," said Valentin. "For a lot of students, I think GrilleMe is the only option for food service sites, and that website is only delivery."

While delivery may sound convenient, both Brown and Valentin recognize that it can also be a source of frustration. With Entrée, customers pay for their food on the app and are notified when it is ready, eliminating awkward wait times and lines at the register.

"Some students literally live right around the Grille, where they could just order it, get a text message notification and pick it up, versus waiting two hours for their food to arrive," Valentin said.

"You literally just walk in to the place where you've ordered from, pick it up and take it wherever you want," Brown explained. "You know that you don't have to wait for your food, because you've already paid for it and been told that it's ready."

In addition to pick-up notifications and the ability to pay for food remotely, the app also has features that allow restaurants to post when they aren't open.

"I think, for instance, that it's kind of absurd that you never know when Sabai Sabai may be unexpectedly closed," said Valentin. "There's no real centralized area or platform to do that, so being able to access that and providing restaurants with a software in which they are actually able to utilize that feature is important."

With a toggle that allows restaurants to easily display updated hours, Valentin and Brown hope to minimize confusion related to unexpected closures and ingredient shortages.

"We offer a restaurant lock, so that if the restaurant is over capacity or out of certain ingredients, they can toggle a switch that shows that the place is closed or that a menu item is not offered," Valentin explained.

With features like this, Valentin and Brown hope to reduce customer impatience and stress among restaurateurs and their employees. Although their goal is to make ordering food a more painless process, Entrée is designed to improve the lives of customers and restaurants alike.

"Right now, online ordering is not a thing in rural Vermont," said Valentin. "It would be nice to make that accessible for students and residents."

Brown agreed, adding, "I think that Entrée will help bring the students and the town closer together, and I hope that it will get more people into restaurants, because you can just order something, jump in the car and come back."

In the process of creating Entrée, Brown and Valentin have partnered with Mark Parrin of Green Peppers.

"We first met with Mark over a year ago," said Brown. "Once we realized how excited he was, that's when we realized that we had something real."

"Mark has really been going through the features with us and telling us what he wants," added Valentin. "He's definitely been pretty pleased with the product so far, and it has felt really cool to sell software to someone who has decades of experience in the restaurant industry."

For a project that has been over a year and a half in the making, the roll-out has been both exciting and nerve-wracking.

"The highs are high, but the lows are definitely low," said Valentin. "At college, especially with school work, you get your grade and you're done. There is no grade when it comes to this, and that's a challenging thing. How, for instance, do we evaluate success, and what does success look like? That's a hard thing to determine, because success is very abstract."

While Entrée is relatively new, Brown and Valentin, both of whom will be graduating later this month, are already planning for the future.

"Right now, we're in talks with Sabai Sabai and some of the other restaurants in town," said Valentin. "We also have Matt Ravichandran '20 and Fazl Shaikh '20, who will be working on getting more restaurants on board once Wilson and I graduate. Sam Ferguson '19.5 will also be managing the software side of Entrée in the fall."

Middlebury Dishes Up For Restaurant Week

By TAYLOR PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

From April 26 through May 5, restaurants throughout the state took part in Vermont's 10th annual Restaurant Week. Participating restaurants developed prix-fixe menus that showcased their chef's specialties while also benefiting a worthy cause — 10 percent of the annual proceeds go to the Vermont Foodbank. Over the years, the program has gained popularity with foodies and Vermonters looking to find new restaurants, patron old favorites and support an important cause.

Beyond charitable donations, Restaurant Week also benefits local restaurants. "The week brings additional recognition to their establishments and drives more customers through their doors," said Kylie Perry of Vermont Federal Credit Union, the presenting sponsor of the event. The full list of restaurants participating in Restaurant Week was posted on the Seven Days website and was accompanied by an interactive map that displays the wide variety of participating establishments, allowing customers to easily find a place to eat.

Three Middlebury restaurants participated this year: Morgan Tavern at the Middlebury Inn, Fire and Ice and Noonie's Deli.

John Zahn, the general manager of the Middlebury Inn, and Head Chef John Hessler have worked over recent months to update the traditional elements of Morgan Tavern, incorporating appetizers and shareable, modern food with rural accents, epitomized by the incredible fish tacos and variety of dishes highlighted in the Restaurant Week menu. Hessler, who previously worked in several culinary establishments throughout the New England area, brings an interest in Asian fusion and dedication to keeping the traditions of the Inn intact while breathing fresh life into the menu.

"Being a part of [Restaurant Week] is really fun for us," Zahn said. Morgan Tavern's Restaurant Week menu had special items such as vegetarian rangoons alongside old favorites like their classic New York cheesecake.

Noonie's Deli, located in the Historic Marbleworks District, offers a variety of sandwich options for a cheaper, more mobile meal. Originally a mobile-cart sandwich business in Burlington, Noonie's is a staple in town for delicious, gigantic sandwiches on homemade bread. Their Restaurant Week menu featured fan favorites, including The Vermonter, a tasty combination of ham, cheddar and sliced apple.

Fire and Ice, a restaurant popular for its huge salad bar and cozy atmosphere, offered a full three-course menu. If the weekend dinner crowds were any indication, the offerings were well-received by the community: the restaurant was packed on Saturday and Sunday. Hopefully, Restaurant Week will have introduced this favorite haunt of Middlebury residents and students to new customers.

Many of the participating restaurants chose to highlight locally-sourced ingredients this year, particularly maple flavors. Morgan's Tavern has made this local affiliation a staple of their service year-round, offering a monthly specials menu entitled "Farm to Table" that is created around local ingredients from a variety of food producers in the area. The restaurant is also focusing on innovative vegetarian options as part of Hessler and Zahn's mission to appeal to a younger crowd. Part of that mission is making the Tavern a fun place to work.

'Bundle' Finds New Love in the Old at Reloved and Maker's Market

By LUCY TOWNEND
Staff Writer

Bundle recently hosted the Reloved and Maker's Market on May 5 at its downtown location. The market featured items such as handmade jewelry, herbal medicine and secondhand clothes from artisans and businesses in the surrounding areas.

Bundle, an organization that hosts pop-up shops, workshops and galleries, opened at 60 Main St last month. Organized by the Better Middlebury Partnership, Bundle's goal is to revitalize downtown Middlebury and combat decreased foot traffic and business following the start of the rail and bridge construction.

Their most recent events have included the "ReBag" workshop on April 24, in which participants made reusable bags to decrease the use of disposable ones, and a workshop hosted by Carrie Root of Root Studio on April 27, which gave participants the opportunity to make hanging felt mobiles. By showcasing crafts and other goods from businesses from a broader geographic region, the Reloved and Maker's Market intended to spur economic growth in downtown Middlebury.

"The hope is to drive business into our town by inviting people from out of town, too," said Kelly Hickey, the manager of Bundle and founder of Edie and Glo, a local business which specializes in handmade vintage clothing.

"Teaching the class was fantastic," reflected Root on her April felt workshop. "We had them fill out a questionnaire, and one of the things that came up most when asked what they liked was meeting new friends." Root attended the Reloved and Maker's market this weekend, selling jewelry, suncatchers and other small pieces made of stained glass.

"It's so nice to be collaborating with such amazing people with all of these cool, differ ent ideas," said Hannah Hulbert of The Good Witch, a seller of vintage clothing and pieces made from recycled materials.

Rebecca Freedner of Beauty Medicine will be teaching a class on Alcohol Painting, a technique using ink made from alcohol, at Bundle on May 17 and was also present at the market on Sunday. She began making her pieces after retiring from henna artistry. "I love my work because it is the opposite of henna — it's not as precise and it's colorful!" Freedner said.

The market also aimed to promote sustainability in the shopping habits of its customers; it featured vendors selling secondhand clothes and those who make new items from recycled materials. "My whole idea is that we have everything here, and we need to use all of that up before we make new items," said Hickey. She presented her items from Edie and Glo, all of which were made out of recycled fabric from the 1960s-70s. "I'm very inspired by the sixties prints because I was born in the sixties, and I remember my mom having them," Hickey said.

Buy Again Alley, one of Middlebury's local thrift stores, also sold secondhand clothes at the market. "Our mission statement is to make clothes like this affordable for anyone, but especially young adults," said Evan Killion, an employee of Buy Again Alley.

Round Robin, located in MarbleWorks, was also present at the market selling vintage items for a greater purpose. "Everything in our store is donated, and we donate all proceeds to the [Porter] hospital," said Robin Huestis, founder of Round Robin.

The market also hosted a number of wellness-oriented vendors that typically operate only out farmers markets and pop-up stores. Shelby Laframboise of Wild Forest Herbals and Medicinal Products finds a different purpose in her work. "[My products are] basically reconnecting people with nature and we've lost that," she said. "We've lost our relationship with nature, and our role in the environment we're in." Wild Forest Herbals sells medicinal products made from herbs that Shelby grows or forages for in Vermont.

Reyna Morgan-Reiner, owner of Breathing in Wellness, found her passion for creating wellness products that were derived from plants after she was diagnosed with lymphoma in her eyes. "I was going through radiation ... I wanted a natural way to treat my skin, and so I made my first healing oil to do that," she explained.

"The creativity is so amazing because you can do anything," said Ellen Joy, yet another participant in the market, who crafts handmade mixed metal jewelry for her business called Metal Nomad.

LUCY TOWNEND/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Robin Huestis of Round Robin and Hannah Davis of Just Bead Different.

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More information about the paper and its submission policies can be found online at www.middleburycampus.com.

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Our Year in Review

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

This year, The Campus has grown its online presence, extended its investigative reporting, and most importantly, extended its reach to include the perspectives of more members of the Middlebury community. We are proud of the work we have done this year, but we recognize there is room for improvement. Reflection is always valuable. We hope by recognizing how we can improve our paper, we will resist complacency and continue to enhance our publication and its reputation.

We see ourselves as a paper for students, alumni, staff, faculty and town residents. Middlebury is a small community filled with engaged and passionate people. We know The Campus reaches audiences beyond the confines of the college. This is why we covered the local elections during the 2018 midterm season and why we devoted an entire issue to staff at the college and the workforce planning process. After all, students are stakeholders in the broader Middlebury community too. We hope to continue reporting on local issues, paying special attention to the ramifications of the workforce planning process, local governments and the economic development of the town in the coming year.

We believe one of our most important roles is to create a public historical record of life on campus. We hope our reporting continues to include as many voices as possible to create a more comprehensive record. Early in the year, we ran four powerful student responses to the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Recently, a wide array of students, faculty members, alumni and even academics outside of our community have written in to comment on the Legutko controversy. We want to keep doing this: providing a platform for impassioned opinion pieces. Thank you for submitting your thoughts to our publication. We hope you continue to do so.

This publication is reliant on thoughtful and inquisitive student writers. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication. Next year, we hope to organize more events in which writers and editors can meet. Perhaps, having "live edit" sessions could help writers feel appreciated and supported.

We'd also like to thank our copy editors. They are often the last students to read over our content before we send the paper to print. We are grateful for our online editors who upload all of our content to our website and help spread our news beyond the physical boundaries of the college. Our photographers and cartoonists work hard to capture footage and create illustrations which not only make the paper look nice but also make wordy content easier to digest.

In our latest issue, we relied on graphics to detail the results of Zeitgeist, our first general survey of student opinion. The goal of the survey was to capture student attitudes about campus culture. We are grateful that nearly 50% of the student body responded to the survey. We hope, in the future, to continue reporting news stories, creating surveys and constructing graphs which indicate students' concerns and feelings about life on campus. Zeitgeist was special because it revealed some of the common concerns students on campus have, like, for example, feeling a lack of belonging.

We published more news in real time this year — delivering news to the community online instead of waiting until our Thursday print issues. Especially during the recent weeks of controversy over the inappropriate chemistry test question that referenced Nazi gas chambers, a professor's decision to show a cartoon referencing the slave trade in a classroom, and the Legutko controversy.

Our investigative work this year also delved into the long-term impacts of the events of the past several years. In March, we published a retrospective piece following up on the ramifications of the Charles Murray incident and the disciplining of student protesters two years later. This week, we're publishing the results of a monthslong investigation into mental health services on campus (see Page 1).

We fell short this year when we failed to break the story about the inappropriate chemistry test question that referenced Nazi gas chambers. But in the future, as we try to provide a record of campus life that our whole community feels they can contribute to, we hope that similar incidents will not go unreported. We need to keep calling attention to the incidents and factors — both positive and negative — that affect every member of our community.

In order to do that more effectively, we need to diversify our editorial board. We work to explore a broad range of Middlebury experiences in our reporting, but we cannot do that if we have a limited set of perspectives in the room. We want more students of color to serve on our board. We'd also like to have students on the board who have a wide range of academic and intellectual interests. You don't have to be a English major to write or edit for the paper.

To our writers, and to those who have never written for The Campus before: we want your voices, not just on our pages, but on our editorial board. If you are interested in joining the board, keep writing for the Campus, pitch us your stories, and let your section editors know you want to join us. We need your perspectives to report Middlebury's history.

Moss Pushes False Narrative... Yet Again

By ALEXANDER KHAN

I am a 2017 graduate of Middlebury and will matriculate at Harvard Law School in the fall. While at Middlebury, I co-led the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) club that invited Dr. Charles Murray to speak, and I was one of the two students heckled on stage by anti-Murray protesters during the event. As a future attorney and accidental free-speech advocate, I have been particularly concerned by Professor Kevin Moss's recent false attacks on political science professors in the fallout from the Legutko lecture cancellation. What I read sickened me, not only for its inaccuracy, but also for what it showed me about the troubling state of intellectual life today.

Moss's op-ed of April 25 was not the first time that he has played the polemicist in our student newspaper. Moss has not published an academic book in 20 years, but he has made time to criticize members of the Middlebury community. In 2017, he attacked Middlebury alum Professor Paul Carrese '89 for stating the obvious: that Charles Murray was prevented from speaking at Middlebury. Moss, pointing to the inaudible live stream held in a private locked greenroom, "corrected" Carrese, and claimed that Murray was not prevented from speaking. With fact-checkers like this, who needs fake news? In 2016, Moss wrote in to scold a Christian student organization at Middlebury regarding its theological requirements that its leaders not support gay marriage. In 2007, The Campus reported on his failed effort to get the College to reject a two-million endowment in the name of the Chief Justice of the United States. Moss objected because he did not agree with the Chief Justice's legal opinions. This sad and embarrassing attack on political diversity earned a sharp rebuke from then-President Liebowitz, printed in these very pages. Liebowitz wrote that Moss's resolution "misrepresents and distorts the record of Justice Rehnquist." That rebuke should not surprise anyone who has followed Moss's recent contributions to campus discourse.

Moss's attacks on members of the community are not confined to the pages of The Campus. On April 17, Moss created a bizarre meme calling for "a few poli sci professors" to "be fired." This was set against a backdrop of fire. How clever. After Moss posted this online for dozens of faculty and alumni to see, it made the rounds with recent alumni, students, and other members of the Middlebury community. It was also mentioned in the Addison County Independent. This was a stunningly public and childish act.

In his op-ed of April 25, Moss offers the same kind of unsupported claims and distortions that earned his 2007 resolution a rebuke from President Liebowitz. First, Moss expresses surprise at Professor Callanan's statement, in his open letter of April 15, that some of the Legutko quotations circulating campus were doctored or taken from context. As an alum with a deep interest in free speech, I kept a close eye on the campaign against the Legutko lecture. It is clear to me that Callanan's characterization was entirely correct. Take for example the use of square brackets in the second quotation pictured in "College Braces for Right-Wing Speaker Accused of Homophobia," published in The Campus on April 16, 2019. Compare this doctored version of the quotation to the original as it appeared in context in the Polska Times. In the original, Legutko was referring to same-sex marriage in context, not LGBT rights as a general class. The quotation was distorted through the insertion of inaccurate supplied words in order to make it more inflammatory. If a lawyer used square brackets in this manner in a submission to a court, he could face reprimand.

Another example is in the student protesters' open letter itself. Although this letter only draws on a few of the many quotations put in circulation, even here they do not get them all right. Protesters insert the phrase "communist and liberal-democratic artists" as the antecedent of "they" in one of the pull quotes. Anyone who reads the sentence carefully can see that the letter's authors got the antecedents of "they" wrong. The letter chops off the first half of the sentence, which makes clear that the antecedents of "they" are the various themes, tropes, and figures which function similarly in liberal-democratic and communist art. The protesters' insertion completely distorts the meaning and context. There are other examples from emails circulating from the week of April 15.

After reviewing his writings, many will take issue with some of Legutko's beliefs. When you set out to turn an entire campus against a visiting scholar, however, you had better be impeccably accurate in your presentation of the evidence.

Moving beyond his inaccurate discussion of the quotations, Moss further claims that Callanan's letter contained "much more false information." Unfortunately, Moss does not tell us what that information is. This is not because he will not, but because he cannot. In a world in which "fake news" is becoming more common, these types of attacks only serve to further degrade the situation.

It would add a great deal to the debate surrounding what happened to Professor Legutko and the larger issue of free speech on campus if Professor Moss actually presented an argument on the issues. That, however, was not in his interest, as it is harder than creating digital art or attacking someone's character in a newspaper. Moss's op-ed trafficked in mischaracterizations and libelous ad hominem attacks in order to assassinate the characters of people he cannot meet in open argument.

Moss's attack on professors of great integrity and intellect was completely unwarranted. The proliferation of character assassination has made American society sick with the cancer of angry partisanship. No one is immune to its charms. It is all too easy to turn to when one cannot or will not address ideas. The result is that we are losing what makes us unique as human beings. What is clear is that Middlebury needs to take a closer look at its problems. The trustees should start seriously asking why Middlebury has not yet joined institutions such as Princeton University and Claremont-McKenna College in endorsing the Chicago Principles of Free Expression. Middlebury's Trustees should endorse the principles at their upcoming meeting and incorporate them into the Handbook. Parents, alumni, faculty, and students should demand nothing less.

Alexander Khan is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2017.

Appreciation for Excellent Student Journalism

By JASON MITTELL

Please take a moment to consider and appreciate what you are reading — not this specific op-ed, but the larger newspaper or website of The Middlebury Campus. This is the product of student journalism, created by a team of unpaid reporters, editors, photographers, and managers who spend hours each week working exceptionally hard to produce quality journalism on top of their regular academic obligations, activities, jobs, and personal lives.

We live in a historical moment where journalists are regularly disparaged and slandered as "the enemy of the people" by some political leaders, and even those of us who appreciate journalism are less apt to praise and pay for this work. So why would Middlebury students spend their scant free time doing journalism? We do not have a journalism major here, so working on The Campus is always going to be in addition to, and rarely integrated into, academic studies. While every student journalist has their own particular motivations, they are all committed to the shared mission of informing and engaging the Middlebury community around the issues that matter to us. They are working for us—and we should not take that for granted.

I serve as the faculty adviser for the The Campus, which is even more of a hands-off role than you could imagine — I only "advise" on the rare instance where a question of institutional policy emerges and I never engage in editorial decisions or priorities, functioning primarily as a required name on MiddLink. The Campus is one of Middlebury's most robust sites of peer education and leadership, where cohorts of students learn from each other, passing along wisdom by training the next generation who will take their place on the masthead. For us faculty who often struggle to devise group projects where students can successfully collaborate independently and reconcile their differences to create a product better than the sum of individual contributions, The Campus is a model to emulate.

Longtime members of the Middlebury community should recognize that The Campus has recently embraced a different attitude toward its own journalism and relationship to the institution. Especially over the past three years, the paper has tackled some of the most difficult moments in Middlebury's modern history with a dogged commitment to accurate reporting and investigation, and at times an adversarial attitude toward the powers that be. This year the paper has taken on big projects, producing exceptional special issues on the November election, staff anxiety in the wake of workforce planning, and last week's Zeitgeist survey on student attitudes. They have covered controversies that have reverberated far beyond Vermont, always with a firm commitment to ensuring that no matter what our differences in opinion and perspective might be, we must have a shared understanding of relevant facts and contexts. In many instances, they have greatly outperformed the work of professional journalists.

For these many reasons, I urge you to take a moment to read the bylines and the masthead, identifying the people behind the words and images you've consumed this year. If you know any of these student journalists, let them know that you appreciate their efforts (and feel free to offer constructive critique too!) — I want to particularly acknowledge and give thanks to the graduating seniors who have led The Campus this academic year: Will DiGravio, Nick Garber, and Rebecca Walker. And if you're a student with years left at Middlebury, consider joining this fine roster of journalists working to keep our community informed and engaged.

Jason Mittell is a professor of Film & Media Culture.

The (Not) Born This Way Project

By NADANI DIXON, ABBIE HINCHMAN, & MARIA BOBBITT-CHERTOCK

We, the members of The BTW Project, seek to trouble popular LGBTQ rights advocates' 'Born This Way' narratives. You know these narratives. They are so prevalent that you may have internalized them without fully thinking them through. (Even Lady Gaga tells us that LGBTQ people are born that way.) Informed by readings we completed for GSFS 289: Introduction to Queer Critique, we propose a queerer alternative, one that does not pathologize queerness. We reject the commonly held belief that gay people are born gay—a belief that has spurred much scientific and medical inquiry into the 'problem' of 'homosexual' biology. The 'Born This Way' narrative inherently others queerness by defining it as something that can't be helped, as something that some biological aberration has unfortunately predetermined; that is, it implies that if we could choose our desires, we would obviously choose not to be gay.

Our goal is to inform LGBTQ activism on this campus by generating discourse about the ways in which our desires are constructed, conditioned, and cultivated. We intend for this project to speak to LGBTQ rights- and justice-minded students across disciplines. In light of this, we hybridized our methods, to capture the attention of STEM students and humanities students alike. Our methods are multifaceted. We hope, for example, that this Op-Ed will encourage people to check out the resources on the website we created. There, we have collated media that challenges the 'Born This Way' narrative's biological determinism: you will find a video essay we produced that reveals and interrogates how the 'Born This Way' narrative has permeated pop culture, PDFs of the artistic and provocative posters and fact sheets we designed and distributed, links to supporting scholarly articles, and detailed explanations of our motives. You may have noticed our posters around campus already. They intentionally deploy confrontational language that emphasizes (perhaps obliquely) the difference between sexuality and gender, the limitations of perceiving desire as compulsory and fixed, and the importance of dismissing a political narrative that suggests queerness is a problem to be scrutinized, objectified, and corrected.

We hope to complicate LGBTQ rights-minded students' infatuation with 'Born This Way' ideas by presenting "queer" as a verb. Our "'QUEER' IS AN ACTIVITY" poster may be the most confounding, but also the most hopeful piece in our project, as we explain on our website:

Maybe it's easier to rally conservative tolerance around a definition of "queer" as a thing someone immutably is, but this definition is pretty flawed. As sociologist Jane Ward points out, if sexuality is biologically predetermined, then why do even liberal parents worry their daughters will turn into lesbians if they get too into feminism in college? Why do they worry that allowing their kids to watch too many queer TV shows might "encourage" them to explore homosexuality? To some extent, we all know that our desires are socially-conditioned and cultivated—this doesn't make them any less real[...] Acknowledging this opens up our understanding of "queerness" to include all those transgressive acts performed by people who didn't identify as "homosexual" (let's recall that the English word "homosexual" has only been around since the late 19th century, and that corresponding terms in other languages, such as Arabic, are even younger). If "queer" is something we do—if it's defined by those acts we perform that resist heteronormative expectations—then suddenly our politics become much more active.

In short, our slogan asks viewers to think about how our politics might change if we defined "queer" as conscious behavior rather than a helpless, inherited burden?

You might be thinking: Sexuality isn't just a "choice"! Or, How can we expect conservative homophobes to get on board with this?? To that we say, why not rethink the biology/choice dichotomy? And yes, why not rethink the whole conservative "tolerance" thing? (Don't we queers want more than just recognition, anyway? What about economic justice for unmarried people, or better healthcare for trans or HIV-positive people?)

Our project doesn't mean to just "call out" a narrative as "problematic;" it means to generate new and difficult conversations. In light of this, we want to hear from you. Comment below, and be sure to visit our website at go/btw.

Nadani Dixon and Maria Bobbitt-Chertock are members of the Middlebury College class of 2020. Abbie Hinchman is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

A Call to Mothers: Tell Your Daughters It's Okay to Masturbate

By AMELIA POLLARD

SADIE HOUSBERG

"You know it's okay to masturbate, right?"

These jarring words came from my mother while we were making sun-tea together in our kitchen. I was 14 and horrified. I uttered a curt "Yes, mom" to shut down the conversation as quickly as it had started. From my memory, her rhetorical question was brought on by no comment of my own. I was a private teenager and had less than no interest in talking to my parents about sex (along with most of America's teens, I'd imagine).

Sun-tea unfinished, I casually, yet swiftly, left the room to avoid a very-much-unwanted continued conversation. All she had said were seven words. She clearly thought there was no need for an explanation (thank you, Urban Dictionary) as she knew that one sentence would do the trick in unwinding the bundle of prejudices I had held in regard to masturbation.

'Masturbation is gross. Sacrilegious. Dirty. Un-lady-like. For boys.' These were the sentiments that the vast majority of my female friends held growing up and that, unfortunately, some still hold.

My hometown was exceptionally progressive and homogenous, with only one outwardly conservative student in my graduating high school class of 138. Regardless of its supposedly liberal ideals, our public high school had its share of gendered afflictions, just like any other. And due to the hushed nature of sex, the problem wasn't put into words. For girls, we didn't know what we were missing because no one was willing to talk to us about it.

Starting in the final years of middle school, some boys were already joking about sex and masturbation at recess—normalizing the conversation from the outset. While boys learn from others at sleepovers, along with YouTube, Urban Dictionary, Pornhub and maybe even their overly presumptuous fathers, girls are left in the dark. According to Dr. Perri Klass in an Op-Ed from December for The New York Times, this isn't just a problem in the social realm: there's a complete deficit of conversations about masturbation in pediatricians' offices as well.

And when these conversations do happen? "We do leave girls out of the conversation almost totally," said Dr. Elizabeth Erickson, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Duke University, in an interview in the New York Times Op-Ed.

From conversations with friends, I am the only female I know whose mother even uttered the word "masturbation" while growing up. In hindsight, I was the lucky one. According to our friends at Planned Parenthood, masturbation also comes with a host of emotional and physical benefits: reduced stress, sounder sleep, improved self-esteem and body image, even "strengthened muscle tone."

However, this is not a call for universal masturbation. It does not interest everyone and that is, quite honestly, not my concern. This is, rather, a call to normalize conversations about masturbation for girls as a means to enable them to take agency over their own sexual health at a young age. Masturbation can help girls learn about their own bodies before getting involved with anyone else's.

When we don't broach the subject, we risk creating power imbalances. When it's normal for boys to talk about sex while the same conversations are stigmatized for girls, one sexual partner in a heterosexual relationship will be inherently more informed than the other. By "informed," I mean to say that the sexual partner's primary education may stem from porn sites and graphic boasts from pubescent peers. Heterosexual porn is infamous for focusing on the "male gaze," which means that for the pubescent viewers, sex will appear to hinge on a female performance, as opposed to a reciprocal experience.

Telling girls that it's okay to masturbate is also a way of fighting against what has become known as the "orgasm gap" that exists in heterosexual encounters and relationships. In one study that examined the rate of orgasming among couples, researchers found that among 800 college students, 91% of men reported orgasming nearly every instance of having sex, while only 39% of women did. This gap runs the risk of making girls feel as if they don't deserve to be as physically pleased as their male counterparts, potentially contributing to a feeling of being lesser than. (For comparison, 95% of lesbian women report orgasming with their partners.)

Allowing girls to go ahead and discover what is pleasurable and comfortable before engaging in sex may strengthen communication with future partners and enhance overall well-being. And it will hopefully avoid instances in which she's told what to do by a "more informed" partner wearing Vans and a snapback.

So why is masturbation still such a taboo subject? To put the topic in a historical perspective, U.S. Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders was forced to resign in 1994 by President Clinton after publicly saying that masturbation is "a normal part of human sexuality" and should be taught in sex-ed classes. This was only 25 years ago, just around the time that people of my generation were entering the world and our parents were mulling over various parenting tactics.

A close friend recently confided that she first learned it was okay to masturbate during her sophomore year of college in a "Gender and Women's Studies" class when the professor insisted that every woman in the room buy a vibrator. At this point, my friend had already had a boyfriend for a year and a half.

Evidently, 20-something is too late to realize it's fine to masturbate. Destigmatizing masturbation equips girls and women with the power of sexual knowledge from an early age. There are few greater gifts to a young girl than giving her the ability to take agency over her body; casually telling her it's okay to masturbate may be the first step.

Amelia Pollard is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2020.5.

The Lookbook: Goodbye Midd

By CLARK LEWIS

So, my last column. I started this column after a joke turned serious during a conversation with The Campus's editor in chief. It happened right before the beginning of my senior year here at Middlebury. Now, I am in my last week at this academic institution. I have begun saying my goodbyes, revisiting meaningful places and finding closure on this incredible era of my life. So, I am dedicating my last Lookbook article to graduation, or more specifically, the history behind graduation gowns.

A couple of weeks ago, I took my senior portraits and became overwhelmed as the photographer told me to put on the cap and gown. As many of us look to graduations to commemorate, validate and close amazing academic journeys of our lives, I began to wonder; who's idea was it to put on heavy, polyester garb to walk across a stage?

According to the Washington Post, graduation gowns originated in twelfth-century Europe. It is no surprise that the first universities were founded and run by clergymen. With clergy donned in typical religious ceremonial attire, their students soon adopted similar garments in order to emulate their faculty but distinguish them from uneducated town residents. The original gowns were heavy, as they were made of Worsted-spun yarns and had hoods in order to keep students warm in unheated buildings. In the late 1800s, the style of robes was standardized for each level of education. All gowns from then on were to be the same color, while certain types of sleeves, fabrics, and add-on decorations were designated for specific degree holders. This is why our professors and teachers look more elaborate than we do on convocation and graduation day. Today, gowns use more lightweight fabrics, and we have transitioned from hoods to caps, tams and bonnets.

Many schools now choose a variety of colors, stoles or other decorations to add flare to the outfit. We excitedly put on our graduation caps and gowns, not realizing the long, religious history that is behind them. What was once religious regalia is now academic. As I am preparing to graduate in a few weeks, I have reflected on the what my education has meant for me. I am very different from the initial white clergymen my graduation gown (and education) was originally for; I wonder if the clergymen of Europe or the founders of Middlebury ever thought someone like me would be adopting their traditions. However, at the end of the day, it doesn't really matter what they would think. On May 26, I will grab my gown and walk across the stage in my best heels toward my diploma and Painter's cane.

Thanks for an amazing four years Midd! You taught me a lot.

Clark Lewis is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

Supporting Francophone Studies, Beyond France

By ZORICA RADANOVIC & CHARLOTTE CAHILLANE

In early October 2018, while we here at Middlebury were gearing up for apple-picking, cooler weather, and changing leaves, Cameroon was about to hold its presidential elections. On Oct. 7, 2018, Paul Biya was re-elected for his 7th term, making him President of Cameroon since Nov. 6, 1982 and only the second president since Cameroon gained independence. The elections this year gained particular international attention because of growing concerns and tensions over Biya's handling of the "Anglophone Crisis." While it is far more complex than we can explain in a few sentences, Cameroon's Northwest and Southwest Regions have been linguistically and culturally Anglophone since colonization. Since 2016, protests in the Northwest and Southwest regions have brought to light the systematic inequalities Anglophone Cameroonians experience, while Biya's government has suppressed and killed hundreds of these civilians in the region since.

Conceivably due to concerns regarding this crisis, the International Programs office at Middlebury decided to pull out the four students studying in the capital city of Yaoundé at the time. They made this decision without consulting professors at Middlebury connected to the program via African Studies, and through discussions with Program Director Ariane Ngabeu, although she was not in favor of relocating. Ngabeu offered the counter proposal that the program take the students from their host families for 1-2 days and put them up in a well-fortified hotel in town in order to alleviate Middlebury's fears. The International Programs office did not bite. Instead, the International Programs Office informed the students with little notice that they would be leaving Cameroon, potentially indefinitely, to go to Morocco while the elections took place. The students had no choice in the matter.

Ngabeu even decided Yaoundé was more than safe enough to leave her toddler and 8-year old daughter to go about their regular daily schedules while she was with the Middlebury students in Morocco. Everyone was confused about this decision: the program director, the students studying in Yaoundé, some Middlebury professors who were made aware of the decision, and alumni of the Cameroon study abroad program from recent years. Stereotypes about Africa were becoming very clear. Unlike the protests in Paris, the ones in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon were somehow more violent and dangerous. Imagine if students in France were pulled out and sent to neighboring countries whenever there was a presidential election on the horizon.

It's hard not to feel like this decision points to racism and xenophobia in Middlebury's abroad programming. To us this decision, for a multitude of reasons, was ridiculous. Due to the resources and time expended on sending the students to Morocco, the students that semester were not able to take the typical tour of the Western region of Cameroon where they would have had more of a chance to engage with Cameroonian history and culture outside of the city. For many who have completed the program, that week-long trip is a key part of the semester or year in Cameroon. Not only this, but the decision to send students to the Morocco program forced the staff and students in Morocco to mobilize quickly in order to accommodate and entertain the group from Yaoundé.

Quite frankly, we feel very sad and frustrated that this was kept out of the public eye and that it occurred without any conversation. It feels like certain people's knowledge and experiences were valued over others'. This makes us think about whose stories are being told and by whom, which extends past the events we just discussed and into the French department at Middlebury as a whole. In the French department at Middlebury College, the course materials overwhelmingly represent French authors, French playwrights, and contemporary French issues.

We know that at least one professor in the department, and probably one or two more, specialize in Francophone studies and literature. However, you wouldn't know this from the classes being offered. In brief conversations with department members where we've raised these concerns, it has been mentioned to us that the department has had to cut down on the classes being taught and the regions it focuses on due to financial and enrollment level difficulties. But we pose this query: Why did the Middlebury administration decide that studies concerning language and culture in the Francophone world were some of the first courses to go?

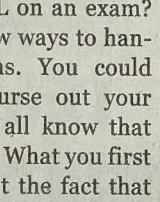
French is the official language of 29 countries in the world, but these countries are not represented in the classes offered nor in the faculty of the French department at Middlebury. The French department recently hired Professor Linsey Sainte-Claire, and from taking that class, we can say that her "Body Politics in Francophone Fictions" class has been the single most engaging and influential French class we have had the opportunity of taking while studying French at Middlebury College. This article is not meant to shame or blame any of the members of the French department for the lack of representation of Francophone studies, but rather it is meant to air our frustrations and disappointment with the hopes that the administration will support the department's further efforts to diversify the chateau.

Before studying abroad in Cameroon, students are required to take one class beyond FREN 209/210, which can be any of the following courses: Communities in French Culture, From Romanticism to Modernism, Criminal Minds in Literature in France, Travelers and Migrants, and Introduction to Contemporary France. Only one of these courses (Travelers and Migrants) explicitly moves beyond the geographic boundaries of France, and has only recently started to be taught. Before we went to study abroad, we were not given the opportunity to learn about Francophone Africa, let alone Cameroon, in an academic space.

It feels like Cameroon has been given a backseat at Middlebury College. Among several things, we hope that this op-ed will make the study abroad office and the administration consider the ways in which they have perpetuated racism in academia, and we hope that there will continue to be a greater effort by put forth by French professors to discuss and promote the study abroad program in Yaoundé.

Zorica Radanovic is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019. Charlotte Cahillane is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.5.

Ask Tré: On Failing Exams



By TRE STEPHENS

Dear Tré,

I just failed an exam, what do I do?

-Anonymous Reader

Dear Reader,

In the spirit of finals week, I thought it would be best fitting to answer this question now. Exams are hard. There is no way around that. Exams at Middlebury are exceptionally hard. For what reason, I don't know. Maybe our professors think they are challenging us, but really they are just making our lives harder than they have to be.

Failing an exam in college to some could look like the end of the world, but trust me, it does get better. Think of failing an exam as one of those things that you will have to eventually go through. I'm telling you this because I don't want you to stress yourself out like most students do here. Exams are like the seasons, they come and conquer, then they pass.

Now what should you do if you happen to take an L on an exam? Well, there are a few ways to handle these situations. You could cry, scream and curse out your professors, but we all know that wouldn't be helpful. What you first need to do is accept the fact that you didn't win this one. Ask yourself, what could you have done to prepare better for this exam? Often times we tell ourselves that we did everything we could, but that isn't always true. Maybe next time you don't hang out with friends or binge-watch GOT so you can catch up; those are just a few things out of the giant list of things we can find ourselves doing instead of studying.

The next step would be to go and talk to your professor directly. Professors have office hours for a reason. Go and look over your exam together, and make sure to ask questions along the way. You can also go a step further and communicate your specific needs for taking exams. Never forget that this school works for you and not the other way around.

Last but not least, if you fail an exam, let it go and try again. As I said above exams are hard, but they are not the end all be all. If you know your exam grade isn't what you thought it would be, you can always try again. Just prepare more, ask for help, go to office hours, and make sure you are taking time for yourself.

The first time I failed an exam here at Middlebury, I didn't really know what to do with myself until I looked in the mirror and realized that nothing in college is supposed to be easy. Yes, it's stressful and sometimes we fail, but we still deserve to be here. My advice to you is to take a deep breathe and remember that it's ok to fail, just as long as you remember that a failure today doesn't mean you will fail tomorrow. Keep trying!

I would like to thank my readers once again for reading my column, and while this is the last ASK TRÉ of the year, please continue to submit your questions! Also good luck on finals everyone!

Love,
Tré

Tré Stephens is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2021.

Alumni Stand Behind Jeff Byers

As alumni of the Middlebury Chemistry Department and former students of Professor Byers, we are truly disheartened by the recent events that transpired as a result of an insensitive Chemistry exam question. Some of us worked closely with Professor Byers in his research group; others have been his students for multiple chemistry classes. We are of different races and ethnicities, different nationalities and from diverse backgrounds. In Jeff Byers, we saw nothing but a dedicated educator with compassion, a sense of humor and genuine care and concern for all of his students, whether you were performing research with him or simply taking chemistry courses.

While the exam question concerning HCN was insensitive and misguided, there was nothing in that question that suggests Professor Byers is anti-Semitic, racist, biased or discriminatory. Nonetheless, President Laurie Patton said in a statement, which is published in Newsweek, that "Middlebury has, and always will, condemn any actions that are anti-Semitic or racist in intent or effect, just as we will any other acts of bias or discrimination." In the current political climate and the ease of news dissemination on social media and otherwise, the school was swift and harsh in its condemnation of Professor Byers in order to protect its image. The quick condemnation and categorization of the professor's exam question as "anti-Semintic" was a knee-jerk reaction that does not serve the long-term interests of a college dedicated to respect, open dialogue and personal growth of all members of its community.

One must not underestimate the chilling effect the school's "zero-tolerance" policy has on educators. Even though Middlebury prides itself on being a residential campus where faculty interact with students inside and outside the classroom (far beyond their call of duty), faculty are expected to have no lapse in judgment. Furthermore, all educational materials must be sanitized. Under such a policy, decades of dedication to students, recognized and appreciated by the students and alumni, are dismissed, despite Professor Byers having owned up to his mistake and apologized repeatedly. We have decided to come to Professor Byers' defense - to speak out against political correctness at the expense of a faculty member's lifelong dedication to the College and generations of students.

Professor Byers has paid dearly for his insensitivity – not only is he now on leave and being investigated for faculty misconduct, this incident is published in many major news outlets, in the U.S. and abroad. His name is forever tarnished because of a momentary lapse in judgment and the school's overreaction. We urge the school to reinstate Professor Byers, so that students can continue to benefit from his teaching and the College can continue to be a venue for open, respectful exchange of political and social views.

In sum, by choosing the "safe" path, the administration is giving into fear of being "trampled" by the loud mob of the vehemently politically correct, who are so easily triggered by keywords and see all in black and white, without the ability to recognize nuances and context. Of all places, an educational institution should grant that to err is human and should thus unequivocally stand behind Professor Byers, who has owned up to his mistake, rather than behind a faceless ideology that shouts tolerance and sensitivity without a shred of either.

Signed,

David S. Shuman '93
Maciej Ceglowski '97
Bonnie Lee '03
Adelina Voutchkova-Kostal '04
Jakub Kostal '04

Editor's Note: More college alumni may sign on to this letter. It can be found at www.middlebury-campus.com.

'Let There Be Dance': Senior Dance Theses Dazzle

By JOHN VAALER
Staff Writer

At one point in "Chosen Family," a dancer depicting the ancient monster Geyren commented, "It's all too unpredictable."

Season 8 of "Game of Thrones" is unpredictable. Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the NASDAQ and novels by Daphne du Maurier are unpredictable.

"Chosen Family," — the senior dance thesis that Caleb Green '19, Lucy Grinnan '19.5 and Maggie Phillips '19 put on at the Dance Theater in the Mahaney Center for the Arts on the nights of May 3 and 4 — however, rocketed beyond the gray solar system of human predictability. The stage flooded with Greek Gods, atomic bonds, erotic desires, twisting limbs, smoke machines and many, many somersaults. To be in the audience of "Chosen Family" was to witness an hour-and-a-half of choreographic genesis in a garden of pirouettes, a primordial landscape where every heel click, pivot turn and shimmey radiated with mercurial mystery and bold bizarreness. Let there be dance.

Every heel click, pivot turn and shimmey radiated with mercurial mystery and bold bizarreness.

The evening's first half featured "Red Me," a hard-nosed production choreographed and written by Green. The performance gave a 1960s take on the legend of the Greek monster Geryon (Christian Kummer '22, Michah Raymond '21 and John Camberfort '21). All three dancers pulled off sensitive performances, highlighting Geryon's developing identity and sexuality in three distinct periods of the monster's life. Green's choreography celebrated the spontaneity of the human (or, uhm, demigod) body: Kummer and Camberfort would interrupt a long silence by slamming their palms onto the ground or stomping in adolescent angst.

The dialogue-heavy "Red Me" contained not only a lot of great dance, but high-octane drama. Green drooped his limbs while kinetically interpreting the legend of Geryon and Madeleine Russell '19 played Geryon's nicotine-loving Monster Mom with tragic heart. Ami Furgang '20 energetically embodied a sculpture-come-alive; the junior film and media culture major zoomed to and fro, like a hummingbird that had been served one too many Red Bull Energy Drinks.

The crown jewel of "Red Me" took place in the middle of the production. Seduced by the older Herakles (Haegan O'Rourke '22), the adolescent Geryon (Raymond) wrestled his lover, using tricky lifts and heel spins that ranged from the somewhat flirtatious to downright erotic. O'Rourke and Raymond absolutely murdered it with high fives and jittery jumps, their writhing silhouettes bathed in crimson light. The floor-pounding duet perfectly captured the lusty anxiety of young romance. Throughout "Red Me," but in this scene especially, Green's uncompromising choreography conquered the audience.

COURTESY PHOTO
Senior dance majors showcased their experimental pieces in a mesmeizing performance last weekend.

"Sentimentalia," the second performance of "Chosen Family," glistened in icy perfection. Its director, Grinnan, took inspiration from Ancient Greek poets. "The main poet is Sappho, whom I've loved since I was seventeen," said Grinnan. "This text is not visible in the piece but shaped the movement vocabulary and relationships within it." Although Greek poetry was its inspiration, the sweeping elegance of "Sentimentalia" also evoked the Romantic ballets of Tchaikovsky.

Midway through the performance, Ariadne Will '22 pivoted into the ether. She then landed on all fours and lightly descended into an upside down limb-crawl of sorts. In this scene, Will's formidable ballet skills rocked the house. Had Russian ballet-legend Vaslav Nijinsky attended "Sentimentalia," even he might have toasted Will's dexterity with a respectful shot of Moskovskaya.

"I dance because it allows an extension to beautiful moments," mused Will. "There is something very raw about dance."

Dance may be raw, but the casting of "Sentimentalia" was quite well-done. Maia Sauer '22 emulated Arctic cool with a poised grapevine near the end, and Maddie Stewart-Boldin '19 pulled off some spry runs.

Grinnan's direction added to the thesis' sangfroid. "In terms of my process, I tend to give dancers prompts and then edit their movement and set transitions, while other choreographers set movement directly on their dancers," said Grinnan. "It is important to me that my dancers to feel agency over how they move their bodies." "Sentimentalia" radiated with wit and grace, but the performance's foremost quality was the sheer gentleness of its choreography and its dancers' synergy.

The evening ended jubilantly: Maggie Phillips '19 presented "Double Take," a frothy coda of science puns and kinetic interpretations of chemical bonds. Phillips, a joint chemistry and dance major, will be working for AmeriCorps next year. One prays, however, that she eventually considers working for The Daily Show; her atom-themed dance routine had the crowd in stitches.

"The creative process and the scientific method are very similar processes, if not the same process," said Phillips. "I approach my dance-making in a very scientific framework, viewing my creation as an experiment."

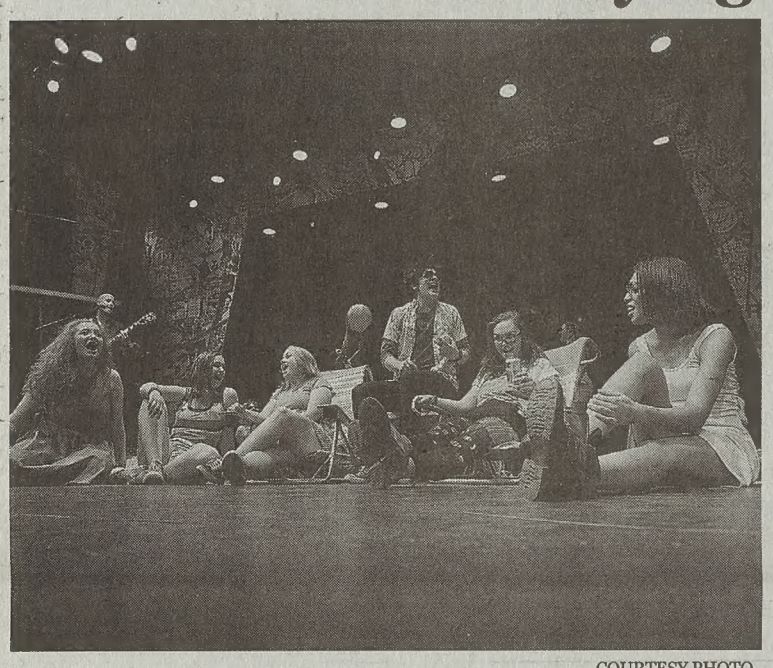
And experimental it was. Chole Zinn '22 dazzled with a low-to-the-ground solo peppered by the occasional leapfrog over the backs of her peers. The dancers also contorted themselves into the pyramid structure of ionic bonds and disassembled in covalent pizzazz.

After twenty minutes, the show ended with revelry when Phillips instructed the audience to hurl dodgeballs at her dancers. "Double Take" stood out with its unique scientific approach, giving "Chosen Family" a tonic levity that raised the audience's spirits.

A hundred and six years ago, Igor Stravinsky shocked the world with the première of his jarring but beautiful ballet "The Rites of Spring." The equally quirky and stunning dance thesis "Chosen Family" could very well be considered "The Rites of Middlebury" — the show not only triumphed creatively, but also moved audiences with its brutal grit.

Much of the choreography in "Chosen Family" was inspired by the classics. It is then a happy coincidence that the production's three authors donned the role of The Graces, the trio of artistic gods who made the earth a jollier, smarter place to live in. Phillips, Grinnan and Green shined.

'American Idiot': Dark and Electrifying



COURTESY PHOTO
American Idiot featured songs from the rock band Green Day.

By CORALIE TYLER
Contributing Writer

"American Idiot" electrifies, captivates and moves you. And it is all thanks to the powerhouse 'MiddKid' effect in the production.

The journeys of Johnny (Bair Lambert '21), Will (Will Koch '21) and Tunny (Olivia Christie '19) takes us into the dark headspaces of young adults trying merely to grapple with life at a time when the world seems to be falling apart. Their stories, views and personal turmoil echo the hopes and fears of young adults in this world today.

The set, designed by Joseph Haggerty '19, reflected the ultimate attitude and aesthetic of the 2000s punk scene. The colors and imagery elevates your soul into the world of the show before it even begins. The set itself feels like a character in itself, one that brings back fond grunge pre-teen memories, and raises slight alarm all at once. The set is our friend that grows with us as we delve deeper into the show.

You want to get up and dance with them; your inner twelve-year-old wants to sing along.

Every single person on that stage gave their entire body, mind and soul to their performances. You could sense the fun and joy in moments of youthful revel, and the gloom in moments of reality inevitably returning and slapping them across the face. One stand-out performance in particular belonged to Olivia Christie '19. She commanded the stage every minute she was onstage. Her eyes seduce you and leave you wanting more by the end of her numbers. Her presence, even in her silent moments, unapologetically demands your attention and gives you the time of your life in the duration of the show.

Director Michole Biancosino '98 (who directed "The Wolves" last spring and will be directing "The Bacchae 2.1" in the fall) gave the audience everything we could only dream of and beyond. It was a throwback, a concert and a musical all at once, You want to get up and dance with them, your inner twelve-year-old wants to sing along... and yet you're still invested in the storyline. You want the show to last forever, but alas, all great (and dark) things must come to an end. This triple combination leaves you feeling like a euphoric twelve year old, and an emotional wreck all at once.

Illimité: Student Start-Up Supports Entrepreneurs with Micro-Loans

By MEREDITH ROBERTSON
Contributing Writer

After brainstorming different phrases that encapsulate personal power and potential growth, Julian Lopez '19 decided upon the French word "illimité" for the name of his recently-launched company. Illimité, which is a clothing and novelty item brand, was created by Lopez in 2019 as a platform to support entrepreneurs in developing countries across the world. For every Illimité product purchased, profit goes toward supporting these business owners.

The name of the company reflects this idea, as it translates to "unlimited," which Lopez says represents the unlimited potential of the entrepreneurs that he is supporting.

So how does it work? When you buy merchandise through the Illimité online store, the proceeds are invested through Kiva.org and used to aid entrepreneurs in the form of micro-loans. When the loans are repaid, the money is put back into the company to break even and then reinvested further. Online, Illimité merchandise ranges from t-shirts and hoodies, to iPhone cases and beach towels.

"For the most extravagant shoppers I even have a giant beanbag in stock," laughs Lopez.

COURTESY PHOTO

The products are designed with a simple red and black logo, which is reminiscent of the style of popular brand Supreme.

The idea for this company grew from Lopez's previous experience as an entrepreneur, designing and selling t-shirts through Redbubble, a platform that enables artists to sell their creations without overhead costs. Like these t-shirts, all Illimité merchandise is similarly produced on-demand.

During the same time Lopez was designing Redbubble t-shirts last year, he was also enrolled in a class learning about the lack of capital markets in developing countries and the way this hinders entrepreneurs from creating successful businesses and earning a living. After combining these two experiences, the socially-conscious brand was born.

"My idea really started to take form after learning about the fact that there are companies out there called 'drop-shippers' that let you sell items on the spot without having overhead costs, and people in developing countries could really benefit from loans in order to get started or continue running their businesses," says Lopez.

At its core, Illimité is a creative way to give back and support others, allowing all those benefiting to have the opportunity to develop their potential in a life-changing way.

When asked about his future as an entrepreneur, Lopez responded, "I definitely would like to start another project at some time. Hopefully one that is actually profitable, given that Illimité is really more of a personal project. As for Illimité, I'll probably keep running it as long as I can keep breaking even and it continues to actually help people."

DON'T MISS THIS

heliosphere

Fiona Sullivan's senior work concert exploring the human voice in electronic music and the body's movement to control audio-visual environments. The program includes live performances of Sullivan's original compositions and features the senior work of Sam Houlihan, Nathan Ng, Hannah Smart and Maddy Goodhart.

Monday 5/13, 8 p.m., Robison Hall

5K for Reproductive Justice

Come run, walk, or even skip your way through 5km and inform yourself about reproductive health and justice issues along the way! Reproductive justice is a movement and a set of beliefs that refers to the position that people should have the rights to have kids, not have kids and have the resources to raise their kids free from oppression and shame.

Sunday 5/12 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.,
Axinn Winter Garden. Free to participate.

Film and Media Culture Senior Thesis Screening

The annual Spring showcase of senior thesis work produced by film and media culture majors. Expect a variety of media modes and styles including fiction, non-fiction, experimental, remix, animation and the videographic essay.

Monday, 5/13, 7 - 9 p.m., Dana Auditorium.

An Abrupt Trip Raises Questions About Africa at Middlebury

Continued from Page 1

Ultimately, the trip proved to be successful — and also unnecessary. The four students, along with Ngabeu, spent a pleasant week in Morocco before returning to Cameroon, which had remained almost entirely peaceful after the election results were announced.

During the hectic, stressful period immediately before the trip to Morocco, and in the months since, people involved have raised questions about how the decision to relocate was made, whether Middlebury applies standards to its African programs that it would not apply elsewhere, and how Middlebury makes judgments about its faraway programs from a campus in rural Vermont.

MESSAGES FROM MIDDLEBURY

Middlebury's decision to relocate the students in Cameroon came as the nation, historically one of the stablest in Central Africa, entered a period of relative instability. Within the last two years, peaceful protests by the country's English-speaking minority against the largely French-speaking national government turned violent after government forces cracked down on protesters. This growing "Anglophone crisis" has caused increased opposition to President Paul Biya, who has led Cameroon since 1982. But Yaoundé is located well within the country's peaceful Francophone region, and last semester's students detected little unrest as they navigated the city each day.

"I remember my host mom saying, 'Oh, Cameroonians don't go out in the streets, so no one's going to protest it,'" Ray said. "No one thought that anything bad would happen in Yaoundé."

Other educational programs operating in Cameroon have had varying responses to the country's fraught political situation. A program operated by the SIT Graduate Institute hardly altered its plans that semester, Ngabeu said. On the other hand, Dickinson College suspended its long-running program in Yaoundé in December, citing risks posed by the Anglophone crisis.

The first signs of Middlebury's discomfort came the morning of the elections, when Ngabeu received an email from Liz Ross, Middlebury's associate dean for international programs, containing a link to a New York Times article published the day before. The article described Cameroon as being "on the brink of civil war," asserting that the upcoming election was "escalating an already volatile situation" in the country.

COURTESY PHOTO/EMILY RAY

Students in the Cameroon program arriving in Morocco. They were informed about the evacuation just over a day before they were flown out.

"I was surprised," Ngabeu said. "Because if anything is happening in Cameroon, I'm the first to know about it."

After asking around, Ngabeu said she learned that the images in the New York Times article were out-of-date photographs of the conflict in the Anglophone region, with little bearing on the city of Yaoundé or on the upcoming elections.

Still, several days later, the message from Middlebury had grown more urgent: Chance asked Ngabeu where she would be able to travel with the students, in the event that Yaoundé became unsafe following the announcement of the election results. Ngabeu told Chance she would spend the next day putting together a plan.

Ngabeu reached out to an acquaintance who worked at the Belgian embassy in Yaoundé, asking whether any arrangements had been made to help Belgian nationals stay safe. The employee dismissed her concerns, noting that the embassy was located in Yaoundé's upscale Bastos neighborhood.

"They told me, 'No no no, you're in Bastos! It's already safe. If you're afraid, look for a hotel in Bastos," Ngabeu said.

So Ngabeu wrote back to Middlebury, proposing that she wait out the election results with the students from a hotel in Bastos. But Middlebury staff said this failed to address their main concern: the possibility that Cameroon would close its borders and airports, trapping the students inside the country.

"We were afraid that if [violence] did spread out, that it would be too late for us to make a decision about what to do with the students," said Carlos Velez, the dean of international programs, in an interview with The Campus.

Within a day of Chance's urgent message to Ngabeu, the two of them, along with Velez and Ross, had agreed on Morocco as a destination. Middlebury's existing program there would provide the infrastructure needed to host the visitors. The only problem was that Ngabeu, a Cameroonian national, needed a Moroccan visa which would take five days to arrive — and the group was set to leave in just two days.

So Ngabeu visited the Moroccan embassy and bribed an employee to expedite the process. Soon after, she sat with the students as they reacted incredulously to the news.

"I said, 'Don't ask any questions, because I am not capable of answering them,'" Ngabeu said.

Unsure whether they would ever return, students spent the next day hurriedly packing all their belongings, saying goodbye to their host families and traveling around Yaoundé, buying souvenirs to bring back to the United States. Ngabeu left her two young children at home in Yaoundé, presuming that Middlebury would not pay for their travel to Morocco.

"That's the proof," Ngabeu said. "I left my children and I went away, because I knew there wasn't any violence."

Although Ngabeu was skeptical, she said she suppressed her doubts. "When they say it's for safety, what can I say? I can't say with certainty that nothing bad will happen," she said.

Velez said the Middlebury staff were certain their precautionary steps were the right ones. "Nobody could assure us that nothing was going to happen," he said. "Even if somebody had, I'm not sure if I would've believed it."

CLAIMS OF UNEQUAL TREATMENT

On Oct. 22, the students watched from Morocco as the incumbent Biya was re-elected Cameroon's president, earning a suspiciously resounding 71% of the vote. The expected result was received calmly in Yaoundé, and within two days, the students found out they would return to Cameroon. The trip to Morocco had lasted one week.

The trip itself had been enjoyable, Ray said, but the stress caused by the departure did not seem to be fully acknowledged after the group returned. And as the months have gone by, Ray said she has begun to think more critically about Middlebury's decision to evacuate the group.

"It just makes me mad," Ray said. "There's already so many different hurdles and obstacles that the Cameroon program has to go through, because it's a program in Africa. There's so much unfounded fear."

Ray is not the only one troubled by the excursion to Morocco. Nadia Horning, a professor of political science who serves on a faculty committee that oversees the Cameroon program, said she was taken aback when Velez and Chance first notified the faculty committee about the trip — just hours after the decision to evacuate had been made.

"I didn't take it particularly well," Horning said. A native of Madagascar who studies African politics, Horning said the incident in Cameroon was the latest in a succession of cases in which the continent has received unequal treatment at Middlebury. She pointed to an effort by faculty several years ago to convince the college to offer Swahili at its summer language schools. After receiving a verbal commitment from an administrator that Swahili would be chosen as the schools' newest language, Horning said she found out abruptly during a speech by an administrator that Korean had been picked instead.

"That did bother me personally," Horning said.

When it came to Cameroon, Horning said she understood administrators' desire to take safety precautions, but still felt the college applied unreasonable standards. "I'm not pro-recklessness and anti-safety," she said. "But I'm definitely anti-exception. I'm anti-standards for Africa that don't apply elsewhere."

Ngabeu suggested that students studying in Asia or Europe would not have been relocated in similar circumstances. "They wouldn't have done anything," she said. "People would have stayed where they were."

Moreover, she worried about the precedent the relocation may have set. "Middlebury really has to reflect on its strategy," Ngabeu said. "Because if every time there's an election, we have to send people to the opposite coast — that's nonsense."

Velez disputed the idea that any double standard had been applied. "If I fear there will be widespread violence anywhere, I would take more drastic measures," he said.

Still, many involved with African Studies at Middlebury tell anecdotes about biases and unfounded fears they have encountered on campus. Ngabeu recalled instances in which parents of students interested in the program asked her how their children would drink water or receive medical care in Cameroon, presuming the country did not have hospitals.

One first-year at Middlebury, interested in studying in Cameroon, told The Campus that a French professor recently tried to dissuade her from going and urged her to study in France instead.

"When I asked him why, he discussed African accents, meaning it would be really hard for me to understand an African accent and that when I came back from Cameroon, I would have an African accent," said the student, who was granted anonymity so she could speak freely about the exchange. "He implied that that wouldn't be good for my future career prospects," she recalled, adding that the professor "made a face" as he discussed African French.

> ***"I said, 'Don't ask any questions, because I am not capable of answering them.'"***
>
> ***- Ariane Ngabeu, Director of Middlebury School in Cameroon***

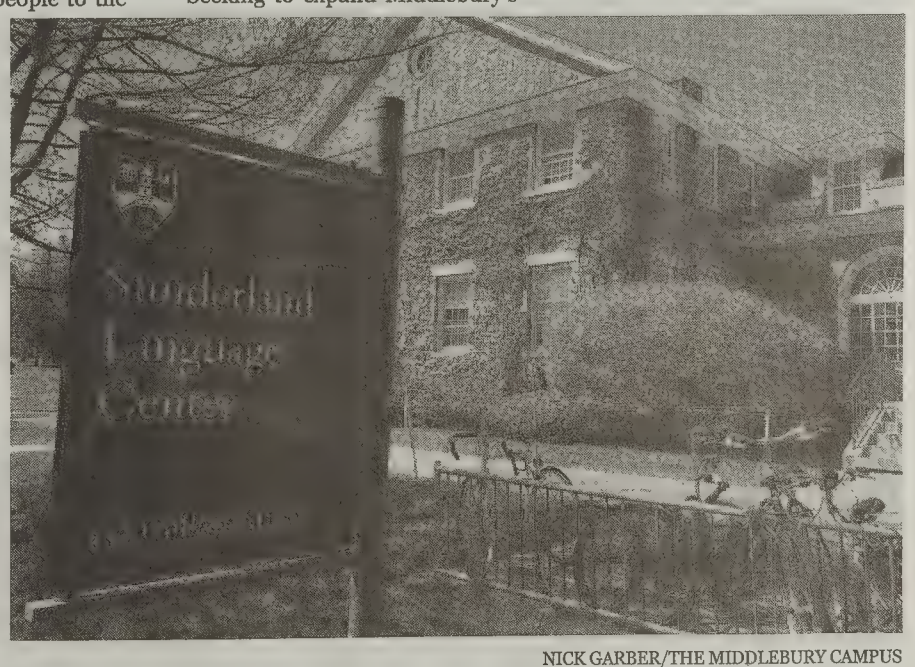
Seeking to expand Middlebury's curricular offerings outside of Francophone Europe, Charlotte Cahillane '19.5 and Zorica Radanovic '19 — both alumnae of the Cameroon program — wrote an op-ed in this week's Campus, advocating that the French Department create more courses that venture "beyond the geographic boundaries of France" (See "Supporting Francophone Studies," Page 9).

For those involved in the October evacuation, meanwhile, the heart of the problem seems to lie beyond Middlebury's campus. Ngabeu, for her part, says she cannot blame Middlebury staff for the decision they made, given that they had to account for Americans' general prejudices towards Africa.

"It's a question of how Americans look at us," she said. "It's not that Middlebury wanted to do this, it's that Middlebury wants to show to other institutions, to parents, to Americans — 'You know that our kids are in this country, and we're taking care of them.'"

"The problem is distant," Ngabeu said. "Middlebury only acted to respond to what others were thinking."

Editor's note: Nick Garber, a managing editor for The Campus, studied abroad in Cameroon in the spring of 2018. The interviews with Ariane Ngabeu for this article were conducted in French and subsequently translated.



NICK GARBER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Staff from Middlebury's office of International Programs, located in Sunderland Language Center, first raised concerns about safety risks posed by the Cameroonian elections in October 2018.

Film Department Honors Its Founder, Professor Ted Perry

By WILL DIGRAVIO
Editor in Chief

If you have taken a course in the Film & Media Culture Department, enjoyed a movie on the big screen in Dana Auditorium or snuck into Axinn 232 on a Friday night with some friends, popcorn and a six-pack, you should thank Ted Perry.

On Friday, May 3, a group of faculty, staff, students, toddlers and President Laurie L. Patton gathered at the Axinn Center to hang a plaque honoring Perry, Fletcher Professor of the Arts Emeritus, for his many contributions to all things film at Middlebury, including the founding of the department in 2008.

"I'm sure it wouldn't have happened without him," said Film Professor Leger Grindon.

Perry arrived at Middlebury in 1978 as a dean with tenure and teaching duties. He had previously been the director of the Film Department at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and chaired the Cinema Studies Department at New York University. His proposal to teach film classes upon his arrival initiated film studies at the college.

The plaque now hangs outside the Film & Media Culture offices in Axinn, beside a poster of "The Passenger" (1975), a film by Michelangelo Antonioni, a director who has been at the center of Perry's own scholarship.

"As students would say: this is really cool," Perry said on Friday.

In brief remarks, he reflected on the decades-long fight for film studies at Middlebury, noting that over the years, some college administrators had been supportive of the department's work, while others questioned its place at the college. Ten or 15 years ago, Perry said, a senior administrator approached him and said that once Perry retired, the college would eliminate the department.

"I had to then wait until that person retired before I could retire," he said to laughter and applause, "but today, it wouldn't be done away with because there's such outstanding teachers, scholars and filmmakers in the department. I think it really has a life and I'm very proud of it."

Members of the Film & Media Culture Department decided earlier this year to purchase the plaque using department funds.

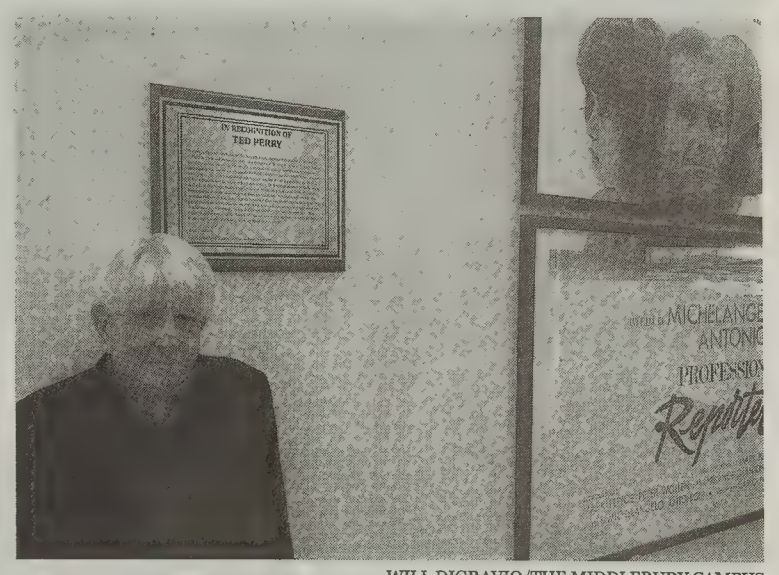
The plaque notes Perry's founding of the film-video program, the precursor to Film & Media Culture, in what was then the Department of Theater, Dance and Film-Video. Perry also raised funds to endow the Hirschfield International Film Series and helped lead the planning and design of the college's film facilities. He retired in 2012.

"Ted had begun his work in the administration and was an excellent negotiator with the powers that be and the ebb and flow of those powers," Grindon said, noting that the department now has seven faculty members. "Without Ted's continuous and persistent effort, this would not have happened."

At Friday's dedication, Emmie Donadio, formerly the chief curator of the Middlebury College Museum of Art, thanked Perry in particular for the films and speakers he brought to campus over the years, noting that he helped Middlebury become "a very stimulating place to be."

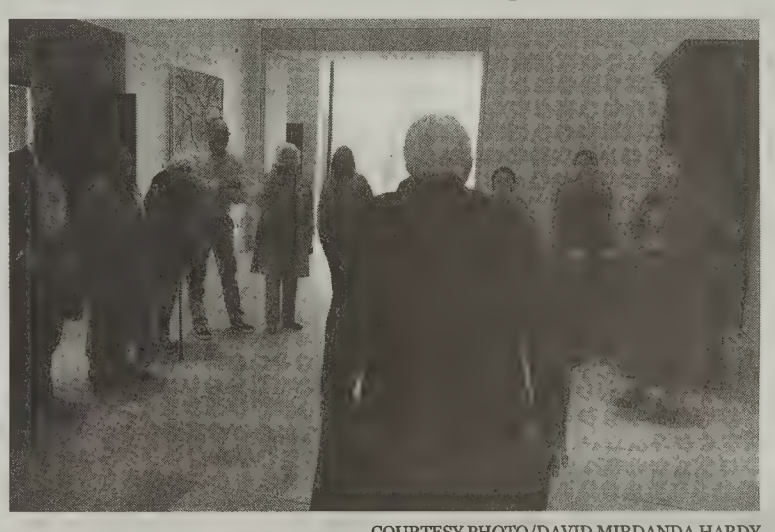
"This was a really nice place to raise kids, because there were films to be seen; they didn't have to go to New York," she said. "You have no idea how many people you have affected deeply."

Editor's note: Will DiGravio, a Film & Media Culture major, worked as a research assistant to Prof. Perry in the spring of 2018.



WILL DIGRAVIO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Ted Perry, Fletcher Professor of the Arts Emeritus, beside a plaque hung in Axinn Center in recognition of his contributions to film at Middlebury. He initiated film studies at the college upon his arrival in 1978.



COURTESY PHOTO/DAVID MIRDANDA HARDY

Perry addresses friends, family and fellow faculty members in Axinn on Friday, May 3.

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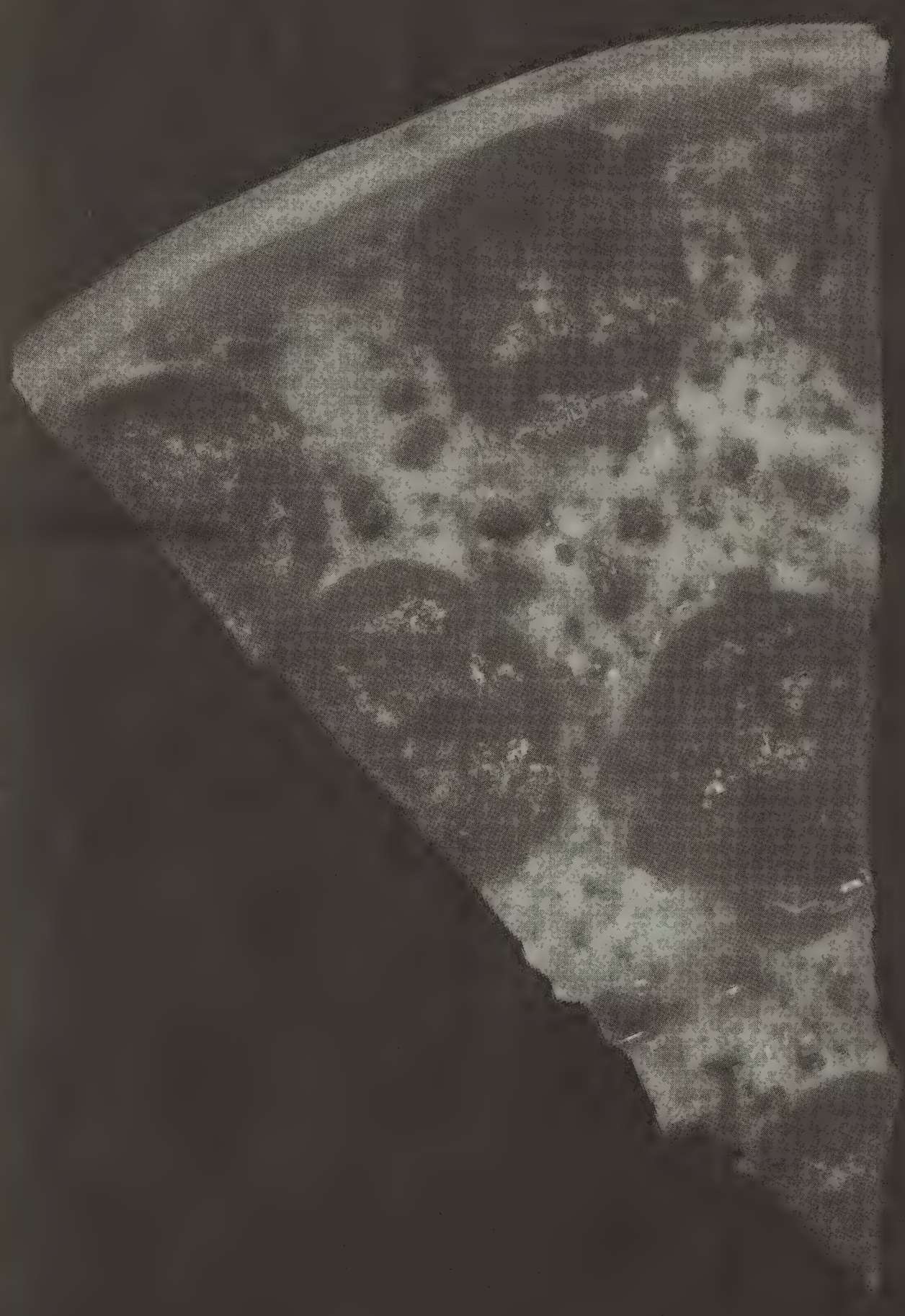

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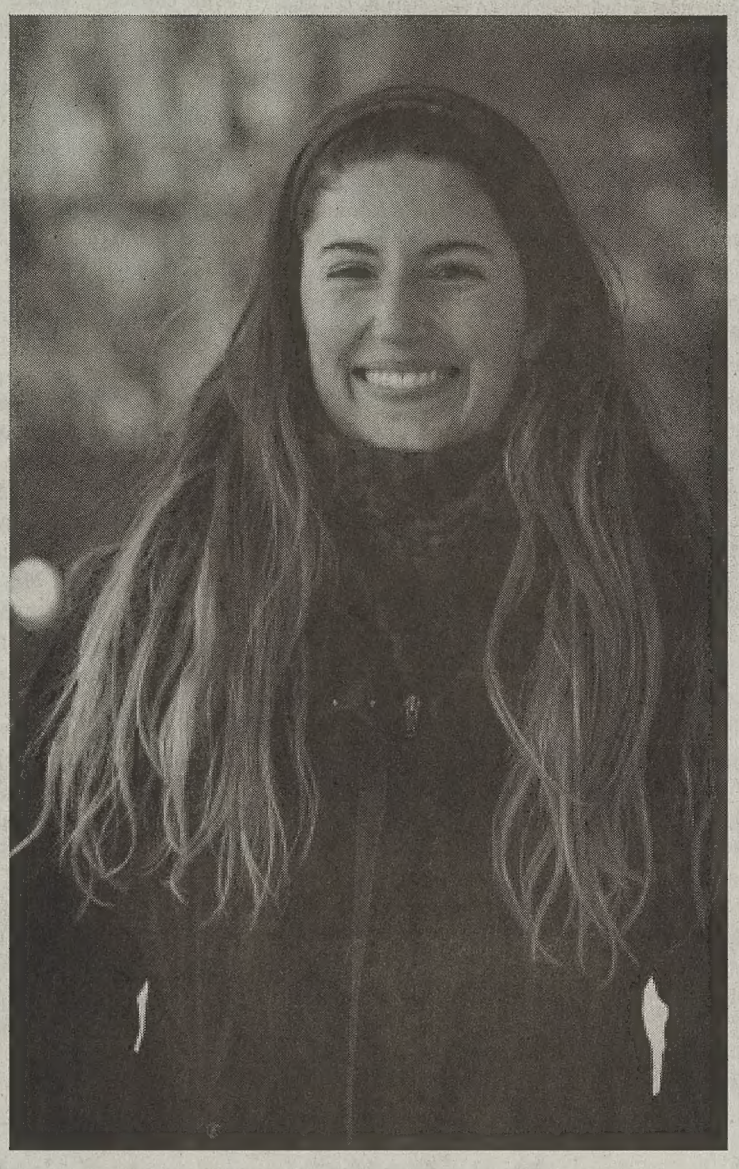
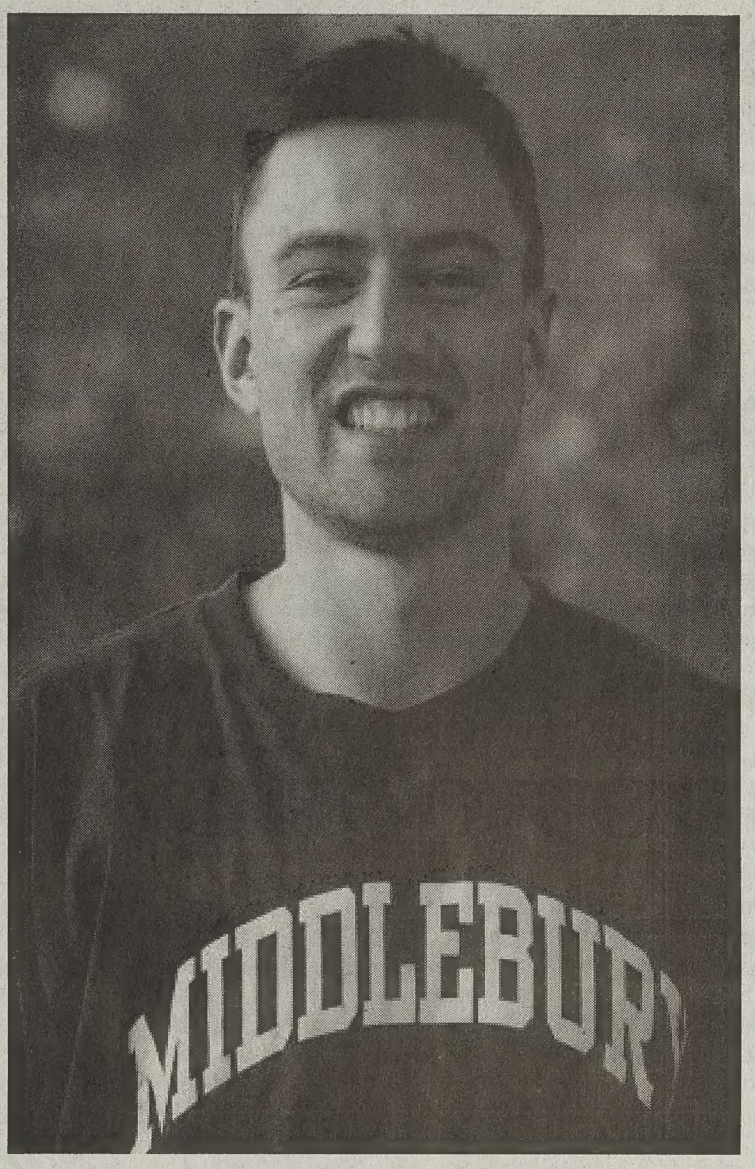


Sabine Poux '20

Editor in Chief



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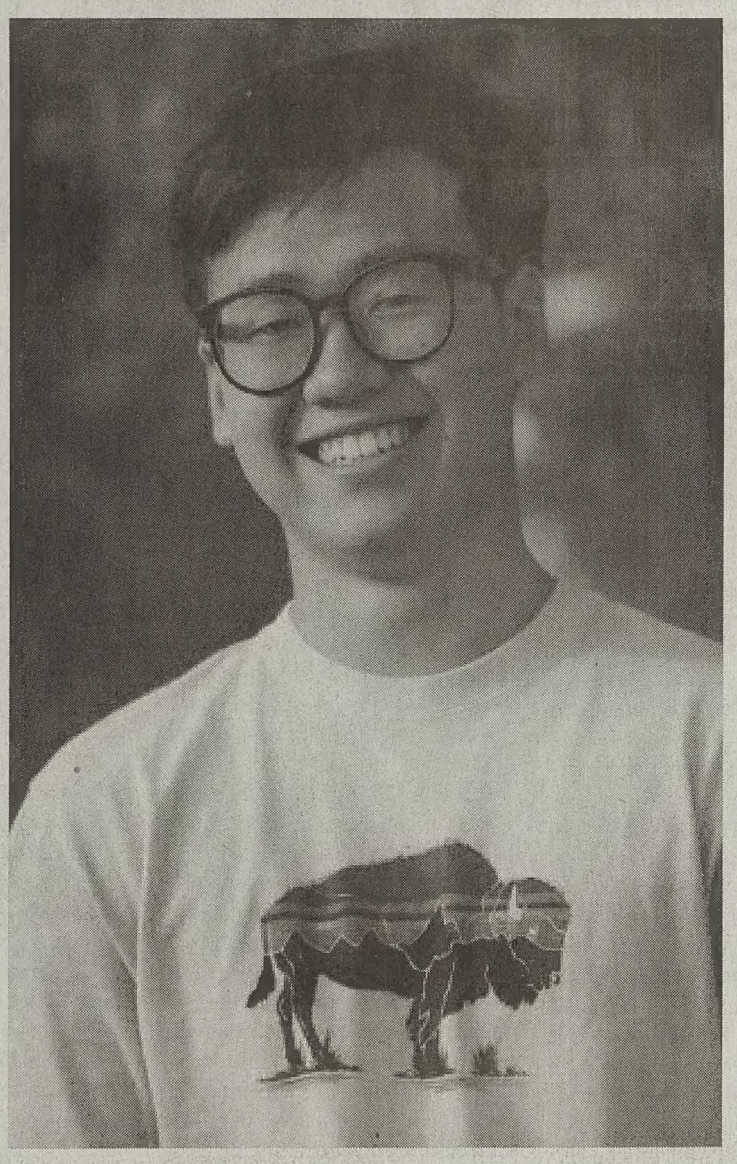

Bochu Ding '21

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Allez les Bleus: Women's Soccer Heads to France

By JENNY LANGERMAN
Senior Writer

Even after a triumphant, whirlwind of a 2018 season, Middlebury Women's Soccer has no plans of stopping now. In fact, they are more motivated than ever to protect their legacy, and will start with their training trip to France.

This past soccer season proved that the Panthers can definitely hold their own against top D3 teams, going all the way to the NCAA Championship. It is clear that the program has promise for years to come, and the opportunity to train in France among soccer's elite will take the team to the next level.

France is set to host this year's Women's World Cup tournament — the ultimate hub of renowned soccer programs and players. "France is a hotbed of women's soccer player development, and boasts one of the best national teams in the world," said Coach Peter Kim, who played a large role in spearheading the trip.

"I took a professional development trip to Europe last year, and spent time in Lyon, Grenoble and Paris. There, I was hosted by some of the top professionals in the country, and they invited our team to play against them if we were able to travel to France," he explained. "Our team takes a foreign trip every three years, and fortunately 2019 corresponded with the Women's World Cup in France. Everything came together, including securing tickets to the opening match of the tournament – France hosting South Korea."

The team will have the opportunity to play at least three matches while in France, with a fourth still to be announced. The first will be against Olympique Lyonnais, a team known for producing many of the top players in France. Coach Kim describes the league as "the premier women's soccer club in the world, that has taken unparalleled steps toward creating equality between the women's and men's games." Next, the Panthers will face FC38 Grenoble — a club in the French National Division – followed by a third against the French National Youth Academy's U18 national team. This is also home to the training center for the women's national pool and summer Olympic athletes.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The women's soccer team celebrates after claiming the NCAA regional title last year.

Naturally, there is much excitement among players leading up to the trip. Sophomore goalie Sachi Howson described how this unique opportunity will benefit her and her teammates. "I have not really had much exposure to styles of play outside of the U.S. but I think it would be really valuable and beneficial to me as an individual player and us as a team to pull from all sorts of styles of play in order to advance our game."

Excitement goes beyond the technical, soccer aspect of the trip, though. "I have never been to France (or continental Europe) so I am most excited about having the opportunity to experience the country's culture," said Howson. "I think that this trip will be a great bonding experience for all of us."

"We plan to take part in a community engagement activity as well, enhancing connections with the local areas we visit and giving back in some capacity," added Kim, hoping to "connect with different cultures."

To fund their trip, the team is asking for donations over MiddGoal, a philanthropy network that supports Middlebury athletes. If you would like to help make this a reality for our women's soccer team, any contribution is greatly appreciated.

Track and Field Breaks Records at DIII New Englands

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

The Middlebury track and field team competed well in the Division III New England Championships on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4.

Previously, Nick Hendrix '20 said the team would prepare for the meet with a "business as usual" attitude. "There will probably a bit more of an individual focus as athletes concentrate on their best events and try to get qualifying marks," Hendrix said. "As far as training goes, we're all in good shape now, so our volume will go down and staying fresh is the priority."

The men's team finished in third place with 64 points. They were behind MIT, who finished with 139.50 points and Tufts, who finished with 89.50 points. To start the meet off, Hendrix finished in third place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.76. Nathan Hill '20 came in first place in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:50.56.

On the 800-meter race, Hill said, "It was a great race. New England is particularly strong in the 800, and so tough competition usually breeds fast times. I always look forward to competing against that group."

In the 1500-meter run, Jon Perlman '19 and Will Meyer '20 came in third and fourth place, respectively. Perlman had a time of 3:53.37 and Meyer had a time of 3:53.40. Theo Henderson's time of 14:56.28 placed him second in the 5000-meter run. The 4x100 meter relay team composed of Noah Wagner-Carlberg '19, Hendrix, Arden Coleman '20 and Conor Banky '19 got third place with a time of 42.08. A throw of 59.73 meters got Minhaj Rahman '19 the win in the hammer throw event. Also, John Natalone '19 captured third in the pole vault event, while Jack Litowitz '20 ended in fourth in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

"I think we performed very well at this meet," Perlman said. "It can be tough to come back from such an emotional meet like NESCACs, but we were still able to have a large number of people get personal bests and position themselves high up on the national qualifying list."

The women's team tied for seventh place in a total field of 34 teams with 34 points, while Williams and MIT came in first and second place respectively. The Panthers scored well in many of the races at the meet. Cassidy Kearney '22 captured third place and Meg Wilson '20 captured fourth place in the 800-meter run. Kearney finished with a time of 2:11.55, while Wilson had a time of 2:13.37. In the 1500-meter run, the Panthers were able to finish in the fifth, sixth and seventh spots. Here, Abigail Nadler '19 had a time of 4:38.86, Rory Kelly '19 had a time of 4:38.98 and Kate MacCary '19 had a time of 4:40.35. The 4x400-meter relay team was able to come in fifth place with a time of 3:53.72. This team was composed of Lucy Lang '19, Ava O'Mara '21, Julia Munz '22, Kearney and Gretchen McGrath '21. Kreager Taber '19 came in fourth in the pole vault event with a vault of 3.51 meters. Also, a throw of 39.96 meters placed Rebecca Gorman '20 sixth in the javelin throw event.

Kearney said, "I was really excited and surprised with my performance at the meet this past weekend ... My coach (Nicole Wilkerson) is always cognizant of how to construct workouts so that athletes peak at the right time in the season, and I think that the performances in D3's overall really showed how everyone is at their highest fitness level. I PR'ed by two seconds in the 800 to run 2:11, and I also was part of the 4x4 relay, in which we just barely broke the school record in 3:53."

The Panthers' journey to the end of the season continues, as they will participate in the Open New England Championships on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, and then the NCAA Championships on May 23-25. This team definitely has the spirit to continue their success as the end of the season nears.

"Open New England's always has strong competition and we plan to prepare by challenging each other each and every day in practice," Hill said. "It has been such a successful year thus far from a team perspective and we hope to continue that success."

Kearney added, "Many athletes realized their potential and are now focusing on what goals they can accomplish next. This end portion of the season seems super fun as the level of competition rises."

Ultimate Frisbee Heads to Nationals

By ALYSSA BROWN
Contributing Writer

After a thrilling regular season, both the women's and men's ultimate frisbee teams earned their bids at New England D-III College Regionals last weekend by winning their pools on the first day of the tournament. The Middlebury Pranksters will be competing in the D-III College Championships, also known as Nationals, in College Station, Texas on May 18 and 19.

During the 2019 season, the Pranksters attended College Southerns in Statesboro, Georgia, where both teams won their pools the first day and played competitively against teams like Carleton and University of North Carolina-Wilmington. There, the women's team put up a fight against UNCW's ruthless "Seaweed," losing by just one point to the Division I team in a surprise fourth game. The men's team placed second overall. At the end of the Pranksters' brief escapade in the south, the women's and men's teams parted ways and competed in separate tournaments in Virginia. The men's team played in the Atlantic Coast Open at Virginia Beach while the women participated in the I-85 Rodeo Tournament, also in Virginia.

The Pranksters worked incredibly hard this season. Sophomore Van Lundsgaard said, "We're really excited for this opportunity to compete at a higher level and contend for the national championship, especially since both teams have had such phenomenal seasons. I feel like this is a testament to the work everyone puts into this community and it really is a collective accomplishment." The men's team enters the championship tournament ranked first in the nation (competing in the tournament for the second year in a row) and the women's team is seeded fifth.

Senior captain Alex Forde reflected on his time on the team during his four years at Middlebury. "Every year of frisbee brings opportunities for new friendships and connections, but this year it felt even more heightened for me," he said. Playing a club sport involves sacrifices and spending hours on solving logistical challenges, but for Forde, he and his teammates feel privileged to play a sport they all love. "We work hard, hold each other accountable, and dream big, while also always being willing to laugh at ourselves, accept and embrace quirkiness, and build great friendships with one another," he said.

COURTESY PHOTO
The men's ultimate frisbee team qualified for Nationals for the second year in a row, currently seeded first.

Not only have the Pranksters been refining their cuts and throws, they have also been nurturing each other and their strength as a community. Social Captain Lily Barter '19.5 understands that, "Community doesn't just happen. People have to put work into it to make it magical. Not just the people in charge, but everyone, otherwise it is unbalanced." The entire team united in March for a community workshop in which players discussed team culture and barriers of inclusion that members of the team's community might face. Barter explained her belief that not many other sports teams attempt to foster this kind of community and create awareness that makes space for potential change. Older team members were proud of their younger teammates' willingness to engage with these topics and continue to support each other with respect, genuine kindness and openness. One of the many reasons the Pranksters are headed to Nationals includes the community that is forged by the captains and the rest of the team. This is a team where the players work as hard for their teammates as they do for themselves, express their love in every cheek-kiss and smile and reveal glimpses of their spirit with every song they sing.

"Proud doesn't even begin to describe it," commented Grace Kellogg '22 on her reaction to earning the bid to the college championships. Qualifying for Nationals is just one of the many ways in which club sports at Middlebury are demonstrating their excellence in and dedication to their sport. With a growing community and deep team rosters, the team is excited to have made incredible strides this year, on and off the field. They are also looking for contributions to help make the trip to the tournament. To contribute, visit go/mensultimatenationals and go/womensultimatenationals. The Pranksters are ecstatic to be representing Middlebury in Texas this spring and hope you will tune in to their games online. Yee-haw!

COURTESY PHOTO
The women's ultimate frisbee team will travel to Nationals in Texas on May 18 and 19.

Baseball Goes 2-2 Over the Weekend, Prepares for NESCACs

By ISABELLA MARCUS
Staff Writer

With a series win against the Amherst Mammoths, the Middlebury baseball team (23-10, 7-5) clinched a spot in the NESCAC Championship playoffs for the fourth time in program history and the second time in three seasons.

The Panthers started the week with a 12-3 win versus Union College (18-20, 14-10), adding a single-game program record of 17 walks and 12 stolen bases.

Middlebury took a 5-1 lead in the third inning on three Union erros and six walks. In the top of the fifth inning, Middlebury tacked on six runs in three hits.

FIrst-year pitcher Alex Rosario received the win, starting five innings, only giving up one run on three hits, with seven strikeouts. Senior pitcher Colby Morris tossed a scoreless inning against Union.

"We basically just let the game come to us," Morris said. "Their pitchers weren't throwing strikes and we were patient at the plate and worked walks to get on base. Conversely, we threw strikes on the mound and forced contact from their hitters, essentially controlling the game from the get-go."

In Game one against Amherst (16-14-1, 6-6), Middlebury scored three runs in the 10th inning to earn a 6-4 win over the Mammoths.

Morris threw nine innings against Amherst, allowing just three runs and striking out six batters. With his 18th career victory, Morris moves into third-place all time with 168 strikeouts.

Junior second baseman Andrew Hennings went 4-for-6 with an RBI single.

In Game two, Middlebury eliminated Amherst from postseason contention and clinched a NESCAC playoff spot.

Amherst took the lead in the bottom of the second inning, but Middlebury responded in the top of the third with an RBI single from Hennings, evening the game out at 1-1. Middlebury took the lead with an RBI single up the middle from senior catcher Phil Bernstein in the top of the fourth.

First-year pitcher Alex Price earned the win over six and two-thirds innings of work, allowing one run on four hits and striking out five. Junior Andrew Martinson got a groundout to the shortstop to end the game and collect his first save of the year.

Game three started with three scoreless frames from the Panthers to open the contest. Amherst scored one run in each of the first three innings to lead 3-0.

The Panthers responded in the fourth inning, loading the bases with two outs. Sophomore center fielder Henry Strmecki hit a clutch two-run single up the middle, cutting the lead to 3-2. First-year second baseman Andrew Gough added an RBI single to put the Panthers ahead.

Amherst won on a walk-off after loading the bases with no outs in the bottom of the ninth.

Carroll went 2-for-3 for the Panthers with one stolen base. Sophomore pitcher George Goldstein took the loss in relief.

"Against Amherst, the games all happened in a similar manner," Morris said. "Each of the three games were pitchers' duels as each team commanded the strike zone and worked efficiently on the mount. We were able to put pressure on their defense, stealing bases and just scrapped enough to outscore them in the first two games. On the mound, our pitchers really executed well in clutch situations to kill their momentum and keep the game within reach until we took the lead."

Junior infielder Brooks Carroll boasted an OBP of .529 over the week, walking five times, stealing five bases and driving in a pair of runs.

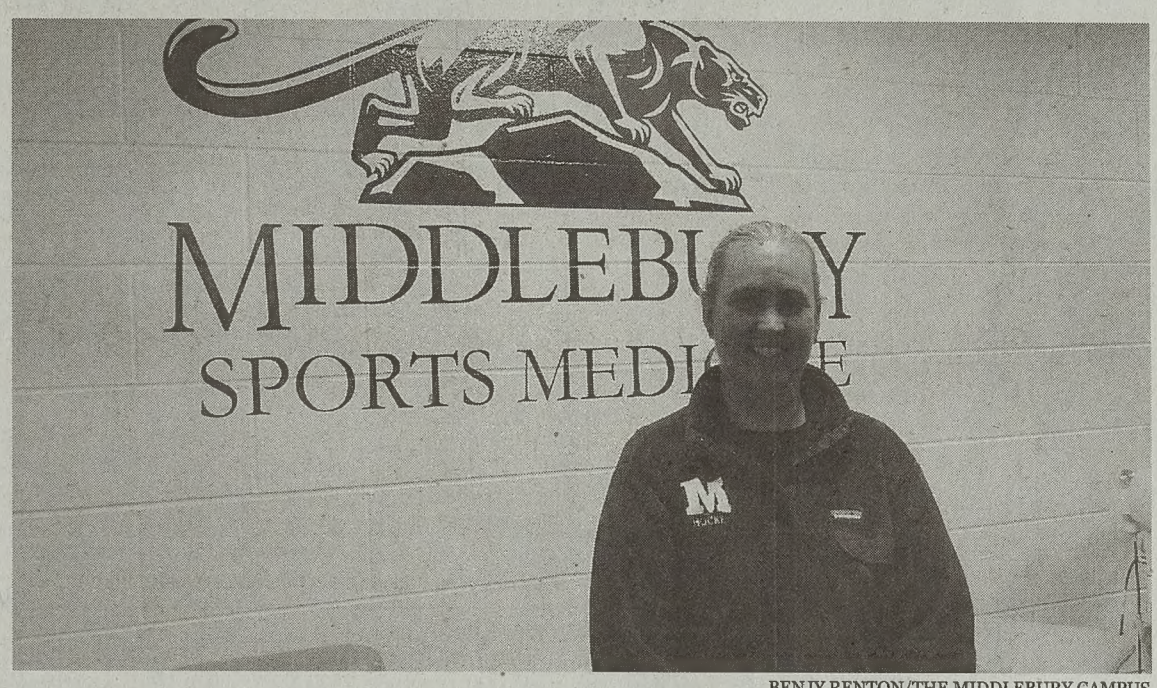
Middlebury will face the Tufts University Jumbos (26-8, 10-2), in its first game of the tournament at 6 p.m. this Friday at Colby College.

The Panthers have made it to the NESCAC Championship series twice, and won their only NESCAC title in 2006. Tufts is the top seed in the East for the sixth straight year, after sweeping Colby College. The Jumbos have played in the last four championship series and won their fourth NESCAC title in 2017.

"We are preparing for the tournament like any other weekend series," Morris said. "As we don't have any midweek games the next few days, we should have extra time to focus on specific defensive plays and get ready for important situations that these intense games will likely produce. The pitchers will get some much-needed rest for our arms and our position guys should get some live at bats during practice this week too. We are headed up Thursday night to Colby College and will be locked in and ready to bring the noise against Tufts on Friday night."

Rachel Eldredge: Trainer, Miracle Worker, Friend

By HEATHER BOEHM
Sports Editor



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Assistant Director of Sports Medicine Rachel Eldredge is the athletic trainer for four athletic teams at Middlebury.

Tireless. This is just one word that describes Rachel Eldredge, the Assistant Director of Sports Medicine. She is an athletic trainer, a therapist and practically a mother to many athletes at Middlebury (the last two were conveniently left out of the job description).

Rachel, or "Trachel" for "trainer Rachel" to differentiate her from the Women's Tennis Head Coach Rachel Kahan, is one of the main reasons that the field hockey, women's ice hockey, and both tennis teams have achieved so much success both on and off the field, ice, or court. Eldredge has been a trainer at Middlebury since 2003, and just last year was promoted to her most recent role of Assistant Director. She was an athlete herself, swimming for the University of La Verne in California. Due to her modest nature, she would never tell you unless you asked.

Her job is made difficult when most of her athletes are unable to describe the physical problem. Sometimes her athletes come in knowing they are in pain, but not being able to describe where it is coming from exactly. With a few prods and pokes here and there, Eldredge is able to find the root of the problem. And, if on the rare chance that problem solving takes her more than five minutes, she transforms into a dedicated researcher. If she can't locate the problem, she will find someone who can deliver her the answers. She will write a plan, construct a strict schedule and check up on her athletes every day to evaluate their progress. Everyone needs a "Trachel"; even her athletes have told her that she needs a "Trachel," given how much she works with her body to heal others.

Maddi Stow '20, a member of the women's tennis team, has spent a large portion of her career recovering from injuries — meaning she has spent a lot of one-on-one time with Eldredge. Stow, coincidentally the Director of the SGA Health and Wellness committee, commented on the help Eldredge provides her off the court, "Rachel challenges us to make time for our self-care even when we are extremely busy. She is always there to pick up the slack (and pick up a snack) when our bodies start to give out on us. When I fractured my elbow freshman year, she would even put my hair in a ponytail when I couldn't. Even while I was studying abroad, we were in constant communication with her giving me exercises and advice in order to make sure I was healthy when I came back."

Eldredge's dedication to the three female (and one male) sports teams she treats is unparalleled. Grace Jennings '19, captain of the field hockey team, also spoke about her team's tight-knit relationship with Eldredge. She reminisced about her junior year season and Rachel's help along the ride. "My junior year I suffered an ankle injury after someone jumped on it off of the field," said Jennings. "It was right after we had won NESCACs and we were heading into NCAAs. I couldn't play in practice at all and was on crutches during the week. In order to play in games, we put probably two-to-three inches worth of tape on my ankle to keep it stiff. Especially in the semi-final game of NCAAs, my ankle was in a lot of pain and I was becoming more and more frustrated. But Rachel was there for it all. She worked with me to come up with ideas for how to keep the ankle stiff while not hindering my speed. Mentally, it was very challenging, but she calmed me down and made me focus on the game instead not the injury itself. And that's what she always does. She takes care of our physical and mental wellness so that we can focus on our performance on the field."

Athletes all know that in the training room, we have a friend and trainer in Rachel. And that relationship cannot be replicated easily. Junior Sidney Portner spoke of Eldredge's help with the women's hockey team over her past three seasons. "I think over my three years the thing that I have noticed and always gives me a good laugh is that she knows each of our very different personalities and she manages them so well," explained Portner. "She loves that we all come in and heat or ice, and she always mentions how "we are so self-sufficient," claiming that we make her job easy. This is pretty funny considering it in no way can be 'easy' to manage 25 different women, yet she does it every day for five months, excited every time we walk in that training room even if we don't need her."

What is most special about Eldredge is her ability to form personal relationships with almost every athlete she works with. You can see how much she values these relationships by her comments about the hardest part of the job. "The hardest part about my job is telling an athlete their season is over because of an injury," said Eldredge. "No matter how hard I try to fix my athletes, there are certain situations where time or surgery are the only way to fix the injury. Whether they are a first year or senior there is nothing I can say to make it all better. The only thing I can do is to be there for them every step of the way and be as supportive as possible."

We are lucky to have someone so dedicated to not only her job, but also the athletes themselves, helping them succeed wherever they go. Her love for her role and athletics is simply unmatched. "Being an athletic trainer at Middlebury and working with such talented teams has given me the ability to be a part of something great, pushed me to be better every day and given me such great purpose in my life," said Eldredge. Eldredge is even willing to travel across the world for her teams. In just a few short weeks, she will accompany the field hockey team on a trip to Dublin, Ireland and Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Men's Lax Loses Overtime Battle Against No. 3 Tufts

By BOBBY SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

In by far the most exciting game of the year, the Middlebury Panthers were outlasted by Tufts University 14-13 in the NESCAC semifinals. On a day full of ups and downs and twists and turns, the Panthers left it all out on the field. Despite the loss, Midd held their heads high and were proud of how well they played throughout the game.

Simply put, the first quarter was wild. After Tufts opened up the scoring early in the first, the Panthers answered with three goals of their own. Contributions came all from different players, including sophomore Pierce Frick, his second of the year. The teams really just answered one another right away, with Tufts scoring twice again. However, Midd answered with three more goals of their own, two from sophomore Will Brossman. It was exciting to see all these new guys step up to the challenge and really balance out the team dynamic. At the :34 second mark left in the first, Freshman Jack Sheehan got on the board in big spot to put the Panthers up 7-5. On a firing shot in the latter seconds, star Chase Goree netted one to take a pretty sizable 8-5 lead going into the second. The second quarter was not like the first. As the defense began to settle in and goalies started to feel more comfortable in net, the scoring came to a halt. Each team netted two of their own, pretty evenly dispersed throughout the quarter. First-year phenom, Tyler Forbes scored one of his own, while Brossman added to his total for the game. Going into the half, Midd maintained a sizable 3 goal lead.

The Panthers came out firing in the third quarter. Jack Sheehan scored from a good distance away to open up what was a great quarter for the Panthers. Tyler Bass made some great saves in goal, while the Panthers got two more goals from Goree and Feldman. In a quarter completely dominated by Middlebury's attack, the Panthers had a demanding 13-8 going into the last stretch. However, the Jumbos knew what had to be done to avoid the upset.

Unfortunately, Tufts showed what they were really capable of in the fourth quarter. By really going on the attack and playing aggressive, stifling defense, Tufts was able to hold the Panthers scoreless, while scoring five goals of their own. The heartbreaker was a goal in the last five seconds of the game to force overtime. In overtime, it really was anyone's game: first goal to score wins. While Middlebury played great defense throughout, the Jumbos found a way to put it in the back of the net, again in the late seconds.

Contributions came from many new faces in the game. Brossman led the scoring with three goals, Jake Madnick had 14 ground balls on the game, and Bass had 12 saves on 26 shots. It was a fantastic effort by the Panthers and a sad way to end their season, but it was a quite impressive showing on their part. The Panthers end their season at 8-9 and miss the NCAA tournament.

Tufts Downs Softball 2-0 in NESCAC Tournament

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

The Panthers played their last game of the season on Friday, May 3 against Tufts in the NESCAC Tournament. Though the softball season worked hard all season and made it to the tournament, the Jumbos ultimately won the game 2-0, and then went on to win the entire NESCAC Championship.

The Panthers finished with a 4-8 record in the conference and 12-19 record overall for the 2019 season. Last year, the team finished with a 5-6 conference record and a 20-11 overall record.

The team might not have taken NESCACs, but they still had a successful season. Middlebury holds third in the conference for total number of home runs (17) and slugging (.463). Their stats are comparable to those from last season, their on base percentage is .398 in 2019 compared to .383 in 2018 and their batting average is .323 compared to .312 last season. Panther Melanie Mandell '20 currently holds the highest batting average (.464) and the third highest number of runs batted in (34) in the conference.

As it was the last game of the season, it was the last game ever for senior captains Ally Doll, Irene Margiotta and Liza Tarr, who have all played for Midd since they were first-years.

These seniors will leave the team in very capable hands. The girls can rely on rookies who made waves this season, with a significant percentage of notable plays coming from infielders Sophia Marlin '22, Sophie Bolinger '22, Noelle Ruschil '22 and pitcher Jen McGann '22.

Chloe Levins '20 Qualifies for NCAA Golf Championship

COURTESY PHOTO
Golf captain Chloe Levins '20 placed individually for second, fifth and 12th place at the Vassar Invitational, Jack Leaman and Williams Spring Invitational, respectively.

Women's Rugby Takes NSCRO Nationals

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Sam Valone '20.5 competes in the Middlebury 7's tournament on April 14.

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

This was a record season for the Middlebury College Women's Rugby Club. On Saturday April 6, they competed in the Rugby Northeast 7's tournament. The ladies tore up the field, winning three matches, allowing them to compete against one of the best teams in the nation: Bentley University.

The game was nerve-racking, the score tied until the last thirty seconds of the game. Unfortunately the Falcons stole the win, allowing them to steal a spot in the National Small College Rugby Organization (NSCRO) Championships.

Bentley dropped out, allowing the Panthers to compete in NSCROs on April 27-28.

The team went to Pittsburgh for the championship. The Northeast Tournament (national qualifiers) was their first tournament of the season. The team had only eight practices to prepare for the tournament, most of the other qualifying schools had their lineups set for months. Co-captain Ellen Colton '19 recalled that the going to the championship was "exciting, rewarding, and gave us an amazing opportunity to learn from some of the best teams in the country." Even competing in the tournament meant a lot to the team, Colton continued, "I'm really proud of the team for learning from each match we played and then putting those things into practice, which resulted in us winning both of our matches on the second day of the tournament and finishing 13th overall. We support each other on and off the pitch and I think you could feel that in every match." As she leaves the school and the team, Colton hopes that this will encourage the club to keep pushing itself. Despite their lack of school resources and experience, they are clearly still able to hold their own on a national level.

This experience meant everything to the Panthers: "Even if we didn't place first, we all felt like winners walking off the field" said Megan Salmon '21, rising forwards captain. As a leader of the team, she's excited for what's to come. "We have a lot of young talent to work with and this trip to nationals just proved that this was only the beginning for MCWRC," she said. The championships seemed to light a fire in some of the younger members, first year Miriam Weathers says the end of their season, "felt like such a reward. I think that it will definitely make the team work harder, going into the future. We all want to qualify again, for sure."

Back-to-Back Champions: Women's Lacrosse Takes the Conference

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Jane Earley '22 won NESCAC Player of the Week after scoring five goals in the NESCAC Championship.

By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team conquered the Tufts Jumbos for their 10th NESCAC Championship this past Sunday, 10-9. With the conference championship under their belts, the team earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, as well as a home game in their first national tournament match.

The competition started with a back-and-forth first half, as momentum changed rapidly between the elite teams. Just as Middlebury's senior captain Emma McDonagh hit the back of the net within five minutes of the game, Tufts answered with two goals of their own. Kirsten Murphy '21 and Jenna McNicholas '19 countered the Tufts response, with assists from Jane Earley '22. Tufts then regained momentum, taking back the lead right before half, 5-4.

Tufts was able to extend its lead to three goals following halftime. Murphy and Earley then responded with two offensive strikes, eliminating the gap, and bringing the score to 7-6. Another back-and-forth stint brought the score to 9-9 with only five minutes left on the clock.

With four minutes left in the game, McDonagh punched the final goal to seal the win, sending the Panthers into the NCAA tournament.

Jane Earley, NESCAC player of the week for the second time this season, scored a career-high five goals against Tufts. When asked about the team's performance, Earley dedicated her squad's success to their composure and motivation, which not only handed them a NESCAC Championship, but a chance at a larger post-season.

Though Tufts fell short of a NESCAC title, they earned an at-large bid into the national tournament, and did so alongside many other NESCAC teams, showing the strength of the conference. Including Middlebury and Tufts, five-NESCAC teams filled the national bracket: Middlebury, Bowdoin, Amherst, Wesleyan and Tufts.

"I think we stayed composed, especially when Tufts went up a few goals on us. We stayed calm and slowly but steadily won back the momentum," Earley said, "It feels amazing to share such a huge accomplishment with all of my best friends. We have worked so hard to be successful in such a challenging league and to have all of our hard work pay off was so rewarding."

This upcoming Sunday, the Middlebury squad will either play JWU (16-4) or Morrisville State (14-5), depending on the results of the JMU vs. Morrisville first-round game on Saturday. Either way, the Panthers will be hosting the game on their home turf.

If the Panthers continue their 13-game streak of holding opponents to single digits, as well as their perfect record against nationally-ranked opponents (12-0), their journey into the NCAA tournament will be exciting and something to watch.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The women's lacrosse team celebrates after defeating Tufts 10-9 to win the NESCAC Championship.

Men's Tennis Flips the Script, Wins NESCAC Title at Home

By JACK KAGAN
Senior Writer

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
After winning NESCACs, the men's tennis team looks to defend their National Championship title.

The men's tennis team, seeded No. 3 in the NESCAC Tournament, capped off an impressive weekend on Sunday with their second upset of the tournament as they shut down top seed Amherst on the Proctor tennis courts.

The host Panthers found themselves going into the weekend as the No. 3 seed after tight losses to Wesleyan and Amherst in April. This set them up with a first round match against No. 6 seed Tufts on Friday, May 3. The Panthers downed the Jumbos 5-3 while the top two seeds, Amherst and Wesleyan, got to rest with a bye into the semifinals.

Despite being the lower seed going into Saturday's semifinal matchup against Wesleyan, the team's goal was clear. "[The] coaches kept on reminding us that we were right there with these teams and only to focus on the process," said sophomore Adam Guo. The Panthers wasted no time jumping out to a 2-1 lead in doubles, reversing the result from last month's match.

A huge help on Saturday came in the way of senior Lubo Cuba's dominance out of the top spot. In the regular season, Cuba struggled against the Cardinals sophomore Andrew Finkelman, losing in three sets. He turned it around however in front of the home crowd in a dominant straight set victory.

The Panthers had yet another rematch set for Sunday morning as they prepared to face the top seeded Amherst Mammoths, who beat the Panthers just one week ago in Massachusetts by a score of 6-3.

Revenge was again the name of the game for the Panthers, as the doubles squads jumped out to a 2-1 lead. Despite the loss up at Amherst, Noah Farrell '19 saw familiar doubles foes and got the win, this time with the help of teammate Alex Vanezis '20.

From then on, the Panthers could not be stopped. The match saw Nate Eazor '21 avenge his recent marathon three-set loss to Harris Foulkes; this time Eazor steamrolled his opponent 6-4, 6-0.

On the top courts, Cuba made quick work of Mammoths sophomore standout Sean Wei, who got the best of Farrell just a week ago. He blanked Wei en route to a 6-0, 6-4 victory. Farrell allowed even fewer games from Amherst's Kevin Ma, shutting him down 6-2, 6-1 on the center court, clinching the title as his teammates rushed in to celebrate.

It was certainly a fitting close for the two senior stars, who have headlined the program's lineup for some time now. "[It] feels so good bringing this title home for the seniors who are leaving ... guys on and off the court [brought] the energy throughout the match," Guo said.

The Panthers turned some heads at NESCACs by beating two higher seeded opponents and were rewarded for winning the conference. They will host three rounds of the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament, for which they received an automatic bid. Friday and likely Saturday will be the last chance to see Cuba and Farrell in action at Proctor as they are seeded to move on to the third round for a potential matchup with No. 31 MIT.

Women's Tennis Falls Short in NESCAC Championship

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

The Middlebury women's tennis team battled to the very end this Sunday before falling to second-seeded Wesleyan 2-5 in the NESCAC Championship on the Proctor tennis courts. On Friday, the Panthers blanked fourth-seeded Amherst 5-0 to advance to the final for the fourth-straight year. Wesleyan will receive an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament with Middlebury now boasting a 16-2 record for this season.

"I think we can all agree that this is the strongest our team has ever been physically and mentally," senior Christina Puccinelli '19 said. "Even though we may not be thrilled with the results of this past weekend, we are all extremely confident in our ability to take it all the way at NCAAs ... I've got two more weeks playing tennis with my ten best friends, and I don't intend to waste them."

On Friday during doubles play, Middlebury swept all three doubles matches. The junior duo of Katherine Hughes and Skylar Schossberger posted an 8-2 victory in the second flight over Camille Smukler and Anya Invenitsky, while Puccinelli and Maddi Stow '20 clinched an 8-6 win against Anya Ramras and Maddie Dewire in the third slot. The top squad of Heather Boehm '20 and Ann Martin Skelly '21 triumphed 8-7 (1) over Kelsey Chen and Jackie Bukzin to secure the 3-0 lead.

In singles action, Boehm eased past Bukzin 6-0, 6-1 at the No. 1 spot, while Puccinelli posted a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Dewire in the third flight. As for the remaining matches which went unfinished due to the Panther's 5-0 lead, Hughes and Smukler split sets at No. 2 singles, with Hughes up 1-0 in the third. At the No. 4 spot, Schossberer also split the first two sets with Ivenitsky, trailing Ivenitsky 0-2 in the third set. In the fifth slot, Amherst's Claire Evans clinched the first set against Stow and was up 3-2 in the second, while Middlebury's Emily Bian '21 claimed the first set at the No. 6 spot over Camilla Trapness, down 1-3 in the second.

On Sunday during doubles, the Panthers secured a 2-1 lead, grabbing points at No. 1 and No. 2 doubles. The No. 1 duo of Boehm and Skelly toppled Victoria Yu and Kristina Yu 8-2, after which the Cardinals tied the match at 1-1 with an 8-5 win in the third spot. The No. 2 pair of Hughes and Schossberger triumphed 8-6 over Venia Yeung and Polina Kiselva, however, to solidify the team's 2-1 advantage.

"Wesleyan played like they had nothing to lose," Boehm said. "Every point was close, we just got a little unlucky here and there and the score was definitely not indicative of the play ... The men's team actually lost NESCACs to Bowdoin last year, and they ended up beating them in the NCAA final when it really mattered. We brush this loss off, because at the end of the day, we came here to win a national championship."

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Emily Bian '21 has gone 11-10 in singles for the 2018-19 season.

During singles play, the Cardinals grabbed the first four points to win the match, posting a straight-set win at the No. 3 spot followed by a three-set triumph at the No. 4 spot. Wesleyan advanced to a 4-1 lead after securing a three-set win at No. 5 and a three-set victory in the second flight as well. As for the two matches remaining when Wesleyan clinched the winning point, the Cardinals claimed the opening set in each one. Victoria Yu edged Boehm 7-6 (5) in a first-set tiebreaker in the top flight, with Boehm leading 3-0 in the second set. At the bottom of the lineup, Wesleyan's Alissa Nakamoto triumphed over Bian 7-5 in the first set, with the second set tied at 4-4.

With many of the matches being close three-setters for the Panthers, their championship loss was heartbreaking to say the least. However, it will only make them stronger as they prepare for the NCAA tournament starting next weekend.

"It actually takes a lot of pressure off of us," Boehm said. "The love we have for each other is unmatched by any team we played this season. We played an incredible match and just needed a few points here and there. Our goal is not to look back, and to just look forward at who our next matchup is."